As a community, including children, staff, parents and governors, we seek to encourage the faith and educational journey of all our members.
We exist to identify the spiritual, academic, physical and professional needs of the children and staff, enabling them to affirm, support and develop each other in the spirit of Jesus.
We believe especially that our education must be broad and life-changing, enabling all the children to develop to their fullest potential so they may influence both the world of today and the world of tomorrow.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) - Safeguarding

This guidance should be used in conjunction with the school's Safeguarding Children Policy.

The way schools and colleges are operating in response to coronavirus continues to be different to business as usual. However, as more children return, a number of important safeguarding principles remain the same:

• the best interests of children must always continue to come first

• if anyone in a school or college has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately

• a DSL or deputy should be available

• it is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children's workforce and/or gain access to children

• children should continue to be protected when they are online

St Andrew's takes a whole institution approach to safeguarding. This will allows us to satisfy ourselves that any new policies and processes in response to coronavirus are not weakening our approach to safeguarding or undermining our child protection policy.

(It will be especially important that wider opening risk assessments and related Health and

Safety risk assessments are appropriately linked into a school or colleges approach to safeguarding and child protection policy. For information on health and safety and advice linked to coronavirus see [managing school premises during the coronavirus outbreak](#) and coronavirus information and advice from [Health and Safety Executive](#).)

Prevent is a vital part of our work to safeguard children from radicalising influences, and it remains in operation in local authorities during this challenging time.

Designated safeguarding leads (DSLs)

It is expected that schools and colleges will have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site. However, it is recognised that in exceptional circumstances this may not always be possible so a trained DSL (or deputy) from the school or college can be available to be contacted via phone or online video - for example working from home.

At St Andrew's The DSLs are the Headteacher and the Deputy Headteacher in his absence.

CPOMs is still used to maintain safeguarding records/files.

DSLs (and deputies) should continue to do what they reasonably can to keep up to date with safeguarding developments, such as via safeguarding partners, newsletters and professional advice groups.

Safeguarding Reporting

All staff will report any safeguarding concerns in the usual way. This includes all pupils whether key worker and vulnerable pupils in school or those who are at home.

Report all incidents using CPOMS and/or speak to the DSL immediately with any concerns.

The DSL, Deputy and SENCO are alerted immediately to any new reports of incidents/concerns and they will be acted upon following the usual channels.

Identification of vulnerable children

Vulnerable children for the purposes of continued attendance during the coronavirus outbreak are those across all year groups who:

• are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child

• have an education, health and care (EHC) plan and it is determined, following risk assessment (risk assessment guidance), that their needs can be as safely or more safely met in the educational environment

• have been assessed as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued attendance. This might include children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services, adopted children, those at risk of becoming NEET ('not

in employment, education or training'), those living in temporary accommodation, those who are young carers and others at the provider and local authority's discretion.

Local authorities have the key day-to-day responsibility for delivery of children's social care. Social workers and virtual school heads will continue to work with vulnerable children in this difficult period. Staff at St Andrew's (supported by the DSL or deputy) should continue to work with and support children's social workers, virtual school heads and any other relevant safeguarding and welfare partners to help protect vulnerable children.

Attendance

Vulnerable children attendance is expected, where it is appropriate for them (that is, where there are no shielding concerns for the child or their household, and/or following a risk assessment for children with an EHC plan), so that they can gain the educational and wellbeing benefits of attending. Vulnerable children – regardless of year group – that have not been attending in the recent period are expected to return to nursery, early years, school or college provision where this would now be appropriate for them to do so. Staff at St Andrew's are working with and supporting the relevant families and pupils to return to school or college, where attendance is appropriate. A brief summary of attendance expectations across the different groups of vulnerable children is as follows:

•for vulnerable children who have a social worker, attendance is expected unless the child/household is shielding or clinically vulnerable (see the advice set out by Public Health England on households with possible coronavirus infection and shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as clinically extremely vulnerable

•for vulnerable children who have an education health and care (EHC) plan, attendance is expected where it is determined, following risk assessment, that their needs can be as safely or more safely met in the educational environment

•for vulnerable children who are deemed otherwise vulnerable, at the school, college or local authority discretion, attendance is expected unless the child/household is shielding or clinically vulnerable (see the advice set out by Public Health England on households with possible coronavirus infection and shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as clinically extremely vulnerable

St Andrew's staff have notified social workers where children with a social worker do not attend. We have also continued to follow up with any parent or carer whose child has been expected to attend and doesn't. To support the above, schools and colleges should take the opportunity when communicating with parents and carers to confirm emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available.

Parents and carers will not be penalised if their child does not attend educational provision.

Staff training and safeguarding induction

All existing staff at St Andrew's has had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of KCSIE. Staff will be notified of any new local arrangements, especially if these are being reviewed/changed as a result of more children returning, so they know what to do if they are worried about a child.

Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter the school or college, they should continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction.

Safer recruitment/volunteers and movement of staff

There are no plans to recruit staff at St Andrew's during this period.

However, it remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the children's workforce or gain access to children.

St Andrew's staff are not involved in any kind of educational "hub" at this time where staff move from school to school.

There is no requirement to obtain a new DBS check for returning staff who have continued to be employed but have not been working in regulated activity during partial school closures. If for any reason the school or college have concerns about the individual, they may obtain a new check in the usual way.

The Headteacher (DSL) is aware, on any given day, which staff/volunteers will be in the school, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity.

Mental Health

Negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of children and their parents. Where they have children of critical workers and vulnerable children on site, and/or more children returning to school, schools and colleges should ensure appropriate support is in place for them. When St Andrew's reopens there will be access to the school counsellor for any pupils requiring support.

The DfE guidance on mental health and behaviour in schools can help schools to identify children who might need additional support, and to put this support in place. The guidance sets out how mental health issues can bring about changes in a child's behaviour or emotional state which can be displayed in a range of different ways, all of which could be an indication of an underlying problem. This can include for example being fearful or withdrawn; aggressive or oppositional; or excessive clinginess. Support for pupils and

students in the current circumstances can include existing provision in the school or college (although this may be delivered in different ways, for example over the phone for those children still not attending provision) or from specialist staff or support services.

Teachers should be aware of the impact the current circumstances can have on the mental health of those students/pupils (and their parents) who are continuing to work from home, including when setting expectations of childrens' work. The department has provided separate guidance on remote education practices during the coronavirus outbreak.

Online safety at St Andrew's

The school's online safety policy remains in place for all children attending school during this period. Pupils working from home do not have access to the school's IT network. There is no expectation that teachers should live stream or provide pre-recorded videos and at St Andrew's it has been decided to avoid this platform for online learning.

The UK Council for Internet Safety provides information to help governing bodies and proprietors assure themselves that any new arrangements continue to effectively safeguard children online.

Internet Matters vulnerable children in a digital world-report may help governing bodies, proprietors, senior leaders and DSLs understand more about the potential increased risks some groups of children can face online.

The UK Safer Internet Centre's professional online safety helpline, email helpline@saferinternet.org.uk or telephone 0344 381 4772 provides support for the children's workforce with any online safety issues they face.

The NSPCC Learning website also provides useful support and training opportunities for professionals.

Local authorities may also be able to provide support.

Support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online includes:

- Thinkuknow provides advice from the National Crime Agency (NCA) on staying safe online
- Parent info is a collaboration between Parentzone and the NCA providing support and guidance for parents from leading experts and organisations
- Childnet offers a toolkit to support parents and carers of children of any age to start discussions about their online life, to set boundaries around online behaviour and technology use, and to find out where to get more help and support
- Internet Matters provides age-specific online safety checklists, guides on how to set parental controls on a range of devices, and a host of practical tips to

help children get the most out of their digital world

- [London Grid for Learning](#) has support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online, including tips to keep primary aged children safe online
- [Net-aware](#) has support for parents and carers from the NSPCC and O2, including a guide to social networks, apps and games
- [Let's Talk About It](#) has advice for parents and carers to keep children safe from online radicalisation
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) has tips, advice, guides and other resources to help keep children safe online, including parental controls offered by home internet providers and safety tools on social networks and other online services

May 2020