

Safeguarding at More House **Parent Bulletin 2020**

Safeguarding during the Covid-19 Pandemic

We have updated the safeguarding bulletin that was sent to you before half term. I hope that you will take a few minutes to read the contents which reflect our approach to safeguarding during the Covid-19 pandemic with due regard to current government legislation and guidance.

More House School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. This commitment remains the same in the difficult circumstances brought about by the COVID-19 outbreak. During this period the principles and practices of the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy will continue to apply.

In order to ensure the safety and welfare of children whilst working in extraordinary circumstances, the school will adhere to the DfE coronavirus guidance: <http://safeguarding.info/covid19safeguarding>

We have updated our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy with an appendix reflecting this guidance and partial reopening of the school which can be found here: <https://www.morehouse.org.uk/88/school-policies>

Remote Learning

The school is acutely aware of the potential risks to children online and will provide a safe environment for online learning. All pupils and staff must remind themselves of and adhere strictly to the E-Safety Policy (<https://www.morehouse.org.uk/88/school-policies>), Acceptable Use of the Internet, Emails and Computers in School Agreement and Online Home Learning Responsible Use Agreement including any COVID-19 extensions to these policies. Pupils will receive regular advice and guidance on staying safe online.

In the course of online learning, girls may be asked to access websites that that have been deemed appropriate and that support their learning outcomes. Online classes will only be conducted using Google Meet. No 1:1 Meets will be permitted.

To facilitate video conferencing during school hours, parents are asked to support by:

- providing students with a workplace that is quiet, safe and free from distractions;
- informing the school if their daughter is unwell by emailing absent@morehousemail.org.uk;
- making sure that your child is dressed appropriately (no pajamas or revealing clothing);
- ensuring that face-face communication is only between teachers and students. Any parent to teacher communication should be in the usual manner, via email.

Parents may not record, share or comment on public forums about individual teachers.

The school uses web filtering software to monitor the use of its systems (including school email accounts). These remain in use during school closure.

Any concerns or queries can be discussed with the Acting Director of Pastoral Care.

Behaviour

Our Behaviour Policy and Anti-Bullying Strategy are also updated to reflect partial opening of the school. The online user agreements, signed by all pupils, remain in force. We have high expectations of all pupils and regularly remind of those expectations. Details of rewards and sanctions are set out in the Behaviour Policy which is available at <https://www.morehouse.org.uk/88/school-policies>.

Reporting Concerns

Safeguarding concerns should be reported to the DSL or Deputy DSL. Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay.

Pupils will be reminded of the procedure for reporting concerns about themselves or someone else. They can email one of the DSLs (named below) or any member of staff or can complete the concern form anonymously which is found on Firefly (Pupil Information – Reporting a Concern <https://morehouse.fireflycloud.net/reporting-a-concern>

Designated Safeguarding Lead – Michael Keeley
keeley.head@morehousemail.org.uk tel: 07393 392 745

Deputy DSL & Acting Director of Pastoral Care
– Ms Davina Reid dreid@morehousemail.org.uk

Pastoral Support

We recognise that school can be a protective factor for children and young people, and that the current circumstances could affect the mental health of pupils and their parents. Staff will be in regular contact with pupils and will continue to be vigilant for signs of safeguarding risks or emotional distress.

Pastoral concerns will be addressed initially by the class teacher or form tutor, who may involve the pastoral team or member of the senior leadership team depending on the nature of the issue.

Where a pupil is already known to the school as being in need, or is in receipt of pastoral-type support in school, the DSL will ensure that a communication and support plan is in place for that child. This may include email, phone or online video contact. The plan will be reviewed regularly and where concerns arise the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate.

When setting expectations for pupils learning remotely and not attending school, teachers will bear in mind the potential impact of the current situation on both children's and adults' mental health

If you would like individual support to address any pastoral or academic concerns we will be happy to arrange to speak to you.

Online Support

Parents are advised of the importance of securing online support (eg tutors, counselling services) from a reputable organisation which can provide evidence that they are safe and can

be trusted to have access to children. The following organisations are recommended:

- *Internet Matters* - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- *London Grid for Learning* - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- *Net-aware* - for support for parents and carers from the NSPCC
- *Thinkuknow* - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
- *UK Safer Internet Centre* - advice for parents and carers

