

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Safeguarding and Pastoral Care Arrangements in Case of Full or Partial School Closure**

As a school our priority is always for the safety of the children in our care. As we approach an uncertain time for schools and possible closure due to government directive or staff shortages, I am writing to explain how we aim to continue serving our students if the necessity arises. Please share this information with your child.

You will also receive an information sheet (attached) providing details of contacts which can be used to support your children whilst school may be shut. During the current crisis we expect there to be an impact on mental health and the services listed in the attached sheet will be available to help in such cases.

In making these plans we are ensuring that as far as we can and where there is need we are supporting those pupils who may need it whilst maintaining robust safeguarding procedures for staff and pupils. Our Safeguarding Leads will continue to keep an overview of all processes and will be in regular contact with pastoral staff to ensure that everything is working correctly and students are being supported.

#### **If you are concerned for the safety of a child:**

If you become concerned about a child and their wellbeing you should take the following steps:

If a child is in imminent danger of harm the advice is always to call the emergency services and report your concerns.

If you or your child becomes concerned for another child then please contact [jmcniven@staldhelms-academy.co.uk](mailto:jmcniven@staldhelms-academy.co.uk) or [bhutchinson@staldhelms-academy.co.uk](mailto:bhutchinson@staldhelms-academy.co.uk)

These email addresses will be monitored throughout school hours – 8:40 to 15:00 - during term time, Monday to Friday. We will respond to any emails which are sent to it. All contacts made in this way will be assessed by the school safeguarding team and next steps taken accordingly, as if the report was made to us in school.

#### **If your child currently has ELSA support at school:**

We will arrange for the school ELSA to be available via the use of a school mobile phone. This number will be shared with students who would normally have appointments. They will be able to phone in during normal school hours if they require any support. We will not share individual student mobile numbers with staff and we will have telephone records of calls made to safeguard both pupils and staff. Information for pupils regarding times and numbers to call will be given to pupils prior to any closure. Staff will not communicate with pupils on personal email addresses or return calls. If students find conversation difficult, we will look to support using written communication via school email addresses.

I am confident that by employing these steps we will be able to support those pupils who require it and keep our focus on safeguarding children from home during periods of school closure.

Thank you for your support and understanding throughout this period and please rest assured we will do all we can to support your children and guard their safety at all times.

Yours sincerely

Jane Mcniven Brenda Hutchinson

**Listed below are organisations that you may find helpful**

### **Childline**

**Online, On the phone, Anytime**

<https://www.childline.org.uk/> 0800 11 11

### **Young minds**

**Fighting for young people's mental health**

<https://youngminds.org.uk/> 020 7089 5050

### **Contact**

**For families with disabled children**

<https://contact.org.uk/> 0808 808 3555

### **Family Lives**

**We build better family lives together**

<https://www.familylives.org.uk/> 0808 800 2222

### **Barnardo's**

**Every child has a right to a safe childhood**

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/>

### **Kidscape**

**Help with bullying**

<https://www.kidscape.org.uk/> 020 7823 5430

### **Papyrus**

**Prevention of young suicide**

<https://papyrus-uk.org/> 0800 068 4141

### **Samaritans**

**Providing emotional support to anyone in emotional distress**

<https://www.samaritans.org/> 116 123 [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org) (response time:24 hours)

### **Kooth**

**Free, Safe and anonymous online support for young people**

<https://kooth.com/>

### [Chat Health](#)

Chat Health is a confidential text messaging service that enables children and young people (aged 11-19) to contact their local public health nursing (school nursing) team

07480 635511

### [Number 18](#)

Providing confidential information and advice for young people aged 12 to 19

Email [info@upinpoole.co.uk](mailto:info@upinpoole.co.uk) 01202 262291

### [CAMHS](#)

For children and young people's emotional health and wellbeing

<https://camhsdorset.org/> 01202 584600

### [FID \(Family Information Directory\)](#)

Helping families to find local childcare, services and activities

<https://www.fid.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/kb5/poole/fis/home.page> 01202 261999

### [Social Services](#)

A wide range of information, services and support in the area of children and young people's social services

01202 735046 out of hours social care 01202 657279

### [EHAP \(Early Help Assessment and Plan\)](#)

Accessing the right help at the right time for children and young people

01202 262626

### [NSPCC Mental health:](#)

Advice if you're struggling with your mental health.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/childrens-mental-health/>