

Annex to Child Protection Policy 2019
In response to the Covid 19 Pandemic
13th April 2020

We are currently in the midst of very unusual times, but these unusual times simply call for the same measures to be applied in fundamentally the same way.

In the case of any child protection concerns raised by children, parents, staff or third parties, staff should contact the Child Protection Co-ordinator or Child Protection Deputies in line with our established child protection procedures.

The Child Protection Co-ordinator is Natalie O'Connell and she can be contacted by email on noconnell@wellingtonschool.org. The Deputy Child Protection Co-ordinator in the Senior School is Alistair McDougall and he can be contacted on amcdougall@wellingtonschool.org. The Deputy Child Protection Co-ordinator in the Junior School is Jimmy Cox and he can be contacted on jcox@wellingtonschool.org. In case of emergency, when none of the above named people are available, please contact the Headmaster Simon Johnson.

Wellington Online

It is impossible to lay down rigid rules regarding online learning but informed common sense is a good guide. Online learning does present additional safeguarding risks and it is the duty of every member of staff to mitigate these risks with appropriate behaviour. Staff are responsible for their own actions and behaviour and should avoid any conduct which would lead any reasonable person to question their motivations and intentions. Staff interactions with pupils must be transparent and they should be wary of allowing situations to develop which could lead to allegations of impropriety.

In light of this, any contact with school pupils should be:

- Using their school email address
- Using Google Classroom/Meet
- [Using WhatsApp - this applies to teachers of S6 only]
- [Peripatetic Music Teachers - separate guidelines apply]

Any communication with pupils should be in line with school policy, for educational purposes and approved by the SMT. Teachers should never share information with pupils in any environment - including social media - that they would not willingly or appropriately share in a school or school related setting. Innocent actions can be misconstrued or manipulated.

Pupil Concerns

Pupil wellbeing concerns and concerns relating to non-engagement with online learning should be directed to the appropriate Year Head or Mr Cox in the Junior School and not sent out as a whole staff email. Year Heads and Mr Cox have the 'bigger picture' and may well know why a child has raised a concern or is not engaging with their learning. There is a risk of inappropriate information sharing if we email all staff and we must do all we can to minimise this risk.

Online Risks

Parental responsibility and engagement in their child's online activity is more important now than ever. Year Heads will deliver lessons on online safety via Google Classroom in the same way that they would in

Year Group assemblies. Communication will be sent to parents highlighting the need to be involved in their child's online learning as a means of scrutinising and checking their activity, most of which is likely to be harmless. Parents with concerns will be supported through early intervention and signposted to the relevant agencies for support, if required.

If any member of staff has any concerns about their own or a child's safety, then please do not hesitate to contact the appropriate named person highlighted above.

Natalie O'Connell 13th April 2020