



Friday 29 January, 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well.

I would just like to signpost you to several policies/documents which have been updated recently due to the Covid-19 pandemic. These can all be found in the policy section of our website –

St. Mary's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy 2020-2021

Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy Covid Addendum 2020-2021

St. Mary's Full Opening Plan January 2021 (Risk Assessment) – Spring 2021

Remote Learning Policy 2020-2021

Can I draw your attention to some of the information given within the Remote Learning Policy regarding safeguarding –

Our school will consider the following when delivering virtual lessons, especially those including the use of webcams:

- Staff and children must wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the household.
- Where possible, backgrounds should be blank or blurred-out. Any photographs or personal/confidential written information should be out of camera shot.
- Where possible, the video sessions should take place in a communal area - preferably not the bedroom, however, if this is not possible, the bedroom door should be kept open so that adults can hear what is going on and see what is going on if they are passing by.
- The child should have their camera turned on. If there is a reason for the camera not to be turned on, then this has to be discussed with the teacher beforehand.
- The child should have their microphone turned on.
- Your child's language must be appropriate, as must any family members in the background

If a parent/carer has any concerns, they should contact school.

Due to the impact of Covid-19, online learning is fast becoming the norm. Whilst we embrace the internet as a fantastic resource, we still need to be aware of the potential risks to children online and the importance of keeping them safe. 'Thinkuknow' is an excellent resource which gives information about these risks – <https://thinkuknow.co.uk/>

We have downloaded some 'Thinkuknow' activities onto our website for you to use with your children. They are on the home learning/online safety page.

In the main, it will be the children's teachers who they will engage with online. In the case of years 1-6 science, it will be Mrs Greenwood, and in music lessons, it will be Mr. Doherty from the music service. Teaching Assistants will also be involved in remote learning, including live zoom sessions and giving feedback on Dojo. If a child also has a trainee-teacher in their class, they will be involved in the same way. ALL adults who interact with children through remote learning have an up-to-date DBS check.

Some parents/carers may wish to supplement their children's remote education by using online companies/tutors. Please ensure that you only use reputable ones that can provide the necessary safeguarding checks. Please contact school if you are in any doubt.

Finally, I would like to say how well your children are doing in terms of remote learning. The engagement has been truly excellent, and we all appreciate how much of a part you play in this, and also how hard this can be due to work/care commitments.

Thank you so much for your patience and effort during this difficult time. We pray that there will be an end to all of this very soon.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. McGrail

Deputy Headteacher



**DIOCESE OF SALFORD AND  
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF ROCHDALE  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE**