



23 April 2020

Ref: NSh/NLH/010420

Dear Parent(s)/ Guardian(s)/ Carer(s)

### Information about Child Protection and Safeguarding at Dame Allan's During School Closure

During this difficult time we wanted to let you know that, even though the Schools' sites are currently closed to all but a few children, we are still here to support all of our pupils and their families in whatever way we can and we remain fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of all pupils.

We are certain that the vast majority of pupils are coping well with the changes to their routine and are managing their school and home life without issue. However, it might be that other children are finding the present circumstances more difficult to manage and might be exhibiting some of the signs indicated below, depending on their age:

#### For pupils aged 3 - 6 years:

- Regressing to behaviour they have outgrown, such as thumb-sucking or bed-wetting
- Showing greater fear at being separated from you
- Tantrums
- Trouble sleeping

#### For pupils aged 7 - 10 years:

- Expressing sadness, anger or fear
- Sharing false information that they are hearing from their peers or seeing online
- Wanting to talk about coronavirus all the time
- Not wanting to talk about the current situation at all
- Having trouble concentrating

#### For pre-teen and teenaged pupils:

- Poor behaviour which might include things like picking fights with you or with siblings or possibly abusing alcohol or drugs
- Becoming afraid to leave the house
- Distancing themselves from their friends and family
- Exhibiting intense emotions but being unable to talk about what they are feeling.

In our Friday weekly updates we have shared links with you to some resources to help you support your child. We hope you have found this information helpful.

Further support from staff is available to the pupils in a variety of ways:

- Form time sessions which enable pupils to raise any concerns with their teachers
- Well-being Wednesday sessions for Key Stage 2 children in the Junior School
- The schools' chaplain, James McGowan can be contacted through email: [chaplain@dameallans.co.uk](mailto:chaplain@dameallans.co.uk) or by phone (0191 274 5078 and 0748 5055 178)
- The Schools' nurse, who is overseeing the counselling provision, can be contacted through email: [la.procter@dameallans.co.uk](mailto:la.procter@dameallans.co.uk)

We would also like to bring to your attention the “ThinkuKnow” education programme from the NCA-CEOP. This is a UK organisation which protects children both online and offline. In the current climate, with children spending increasing amounts of time online during distance learning Northumbria Police have highlighted this online safety programme which you may find useful and which contains resources targeted at different age groups. It may be accessed by following this link: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

If you have any concerns about how your son/ daughter is coping or you need any other support from the Schools, please let us know by contacting their form teacher. If you have a particular concern regarding safeguarding matters, please contact one of the following Designated Safeguarding Leads:

Name	Email	Role and Area of Responsibility
J R Hind	jr.hind@dameallans.co.uk	DSL
G Laidler	gm.laidler@dameallans.co.uk	DSL
E Fiddaman	ec.fiddaman@dameallans.co.uk	Lead DSL - Senior School, particular responsibility Senior Girls
P Wildsmith	p.wildsmith@dameallans.co.uk	Deputy DSL- Senior School, particular responsibility Senior Boys
D Farren	dm.farren@dameallans.co.uk	Lead DSL - Junior School
P Ferguson	pl.ferguson@dameallans.co.uk	Deputy DSL – Junior School particular responsibility EYFS
J Downie	j.downie@dameallans.co.uk	Assistant DSL

However, do also be aware that all Dame Allan’s staff are trained in safeguarding procedures and any member of staff will be able to direct concerns to the safeguarding team.

The Safeguarding Policy which is on our website remains our core guide for dealing with any concerns about the welfare of our pupils. Contact with staff is now most likely to be by email and the email addresses of all Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) staff together with their particular area of responsibility are shown above.

**Key Messages:**

**Dame Allan’s Schools will continue to:**

- Provide a safe environment for all children
- Keep children safe
- Ensure all staff and volunteers have been appropriately checked
- Ensure risk assessments are carried out as required

**Our key safeguarding messages remain unchanged:**

- The best interests of the child must always come first
- Any safeguarding concerns about a child will be dealt with immediately
- A DSL or deputy will be available by phone or email
- Children within the physical school premises are protected from unsuitable adults
- Children are protected online - staff are particularly vigilant for concerns about online peer on peer abuse

Safeguarding during this current crisis remains crucially important particularly as we face new ways of living and working. We encourage any contact from parents or carers about any concerns that they have - large or small. Nothing is too small to mention, if it helps us keep our pupils safe, we would much rather know than not.

Please bear in mind that, as we state in our policy, ANYONE CAN MAKE A REFERRAL TO SOCIAL SERVICES AT ANY TIME - the overriding concern is that children are protected. In an emergency or where there is a risk of immediate harm, the police should be called.

Helpful numbers are given here:

**Newcastle Social Services:**

Initial Response - 0191 277 2500

Emergency Team (out of hours) - 0191 278 7878

**Gateshead Social Services:**

Referral Team - 0191 433 2653

Emergency Team (out of hours) - 0191 477 0844

**Northumberland Social Services:**

Referral Team - 01670 714 411

Emergency Team (out of hours) - 01670 516 131

**North Tyneside Social Services:**

Referral Team - 0191 2006262

Emergency Team (out of hours) - 0191 200 6800

**South Tyneside Social Services:**

Referral Team - 0191 424 5010

Emergency Team (out of hours) – 0191 456 2093

Full details of other organisations are available in Appendix L of the Safeguarding Policy.

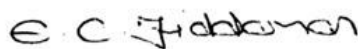
We are extremely grateful for all the support you have shown us as we have adapted to these new circumstances, and we want to reassure you that we are still here to support you too.

We can and will get through this together.

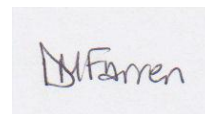
Yours faithfully



**Miss N Shaw**  
**Vice Principal (Pastoral)**



**Mrs E C Fiddaman**  
**Lead DSL**  
**Dame Allan's Senior Schools**



**Mrs D M Farren**  
**Lead DSL**  
**Dame Allan's Junior School and Nursery**