

23 March 2020

Safeguarding/ supporting children and families during the school closure

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you in my capacity as the safeguarding lead at Hexham Middle School, to outline how we will continue supporting families and children throughout the period of school closure due to the COVID 19 outbreak. Even though the school has closed, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns or need advice on protecting or safeguarding a young person.

Please follow the guidance below:

- Firstly, if you need to report an urgent concern, speak to Northumberland's One Call service, which is their 'front door' to safeguarding services, on **01670 536400** or call the police.
- During the closure, any concerns or worries about a child can be reported to me via admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk. This email account will be checked daily. Please make the email for my attention, giving your name and contact number and one of our team will get back to you.
- Also, pupils, parents and carers can continue to use the school phone number during usual working hours (**01434 602533**) to report any concerns and we will do what we can to support and help.
- In the case of parent/carers currently involved in an early help assessment (EHA) process or involved with children's services, although we may not be able to meet in person we are exploring the possibility of using email and phone contact to continue to liaise with other professionals to support you. Individual parents/carers will be contacted directly by the lead professional to make these arrangements.

Yours faithfully

Amanda Frankish
DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead)