



KD Safeguarding

Keeping children safe

COVID 19: Safeguarding in school closure

Kerry Dawson



Need a listening ear?

We are here to help...

Email or phone us for free safeguarding advice and support

Talk through practical solutions and logistics

Emotional wellbeing support for you and your team

KD Safeguarding...
#We'reInThisTogether



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Managing unexpected endings and transitions

- Managing the transition for children and young people to return to school will be key to maintaining their wellbeing
- Some children are preparing for milestone moments in their life, such as starting school, moving to secondary school, leaving school or preparing for exams
- These transitions involve complex social arrangements and processing loss as they prepare for new beginnings



Supporting children and young people to have more positive endings

- Preparation
- Focus on accomplishments, rather than losses
- Communicating honestly, whilst being hopeful about the future
- Normalise worries and anxieties
- Promote connection and social support networks

Discussion...
What ideas and good practice can we share?



Supporting children and young people to have more positive endings and transitions

Preparing Your Child For the First Day Back in School

As schools begin to open to more children, parents and children may well be feeling anxious. Here's some ideas of how best to prepare.

Be Calm.

Your child will take their lead from you and be reassured if you are steady and matter of fact.



Be Positive.

Remind them of all the ways they have learnt to keep themselves safe: washing their hands regularly, sneezing and coughing into their elbow, not hugging others and staying in their own space.



Be Supportive

Younger children particularly may struggle with separation anxiety and may become tearful, clingy or act out. Reassure them that you will miss them too and think of them through out the day. It might be helpful to draw a little heart on their wrist and one on yours too. You can call it the hug button and when they find they are missing you they can press the heart and know that you will be doing the same at home. Sometimes having a little object to remind them of you through the day helps but please check this out with your school first.



Be Curious.

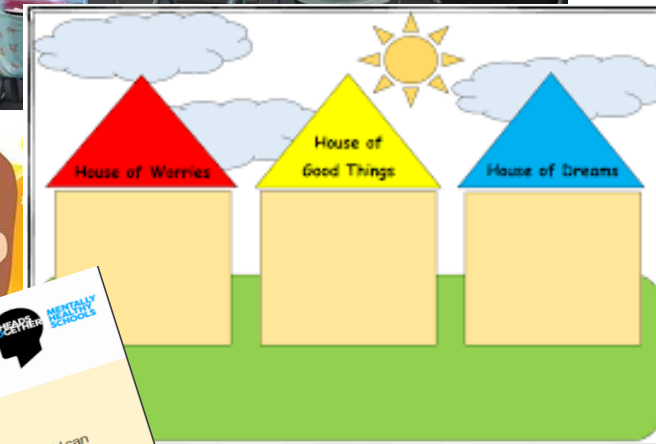
These are strange times and their imagination may run away with them. Listen, and try not to dismiss or minimise their fears but validate how they are feeling – "it's completely fine to feel like that at the moment" or "I can really understand why you would feel like that"

Be Thankful.

Help your child think of things they are looking forward to: being with their friends, seeing their teacher, favourite activities but be mindful some of these may not be available for them

Be Prepared.

Support your child to be aware of changes that may have happened to their classroom environment since they were there last and rehearse any new routines that school may have shared. Rehearse and practice your 'goodbye' routine and create a 'hello' greeting for the end of the day for them to look forward to.



We are really looking forward to seeing you at Mount Carmel High School in September

If you have any questions before then please...

10 practical tips for school staff to help children settle when starting primary school - or to support those who change school regularly

Help children be ready for school

Identify children who need extra support

...and address them by name each day.

...in a new environment for some of the schools, use [circle time](#)



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