

RAAC Addendum for Safeguarding Policy

September 2023

This addendum applies during the changes required by the Department for Education (DfE) guidance related to Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC). It reflects updated advice from the DfE as stated on the 31st August 2023 that all school buildings where RAAC is present should be closed until mitigations are in place. This may lead to remote learning in some cases and it is for this reason that this addendum has been created.

It should be read in conjunction with the Remote Learning Policy. Unless covered here, our normal safeguarding policy continues to apply. This addendum is subject to change, in response to any new or updated guidance the government may publish. In this addendum, where we refer to measures to protect pupils who are at home, this means those who are engaging with remote learning due to the closure of areas in school related to RAAC.

In this addendum, where we refer to vulnerable pupils, this means those who are assessed as being in need, including pupils:

- With a child protection plan
- With a child in need plan
- Looked after by the local authority
- Have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- Considered vulnerable by the school and/or LA
- Adopted
- Living in temporary accommodation
- Young carers

Core Safeguarding Principles

We will follow the statutory safeguarding guidance in Keeping Children Safe in Education - [KCSiE 2023](#). We will always have regard for these important safeguarding principles and will maintain an attitude of 'It could happen here.'

We are aware that this difficult time could prove difficult for some pupils, particularly those who are not seen in school daily. Staff and volunteers will continue to be alert to any signs of abuse, or effects on pupils' mental health that are also safeguarding concerns, and act on concerns immediately in line with the procedures established within the school.

If anyone has a safeguarding concern about any pupil, they should act on it immediately. During school hours a designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Deputy DSL will be available at all times to address concerns raised regarding any pupil on remote learning or accessing learning at an alternative site, either on the premises or contactable by telephone. Out of school hours normal procedures would apply.

- If you feel a child is in immediate danger, then you should call 999
- Remember anyone can make a referral to Social Care or ring for advice the number is: 0345 603 7627
- If the concern does not meet any of these thresholds, then we have an email address that you can use to raise your concern with one of the safeguarding team; outofhours@bromfords.essex.sch.uk

Reporting Concerns

All staff and volunteers MUST continue to act on any concerns they have about a pupil immediately. It is still vitally important to do this, both for pupils at school and those at home. Our school uses My Concern, which is a web-based reporting tool and can be used at home or in school. The DSLs will continue to monitor My Concern throughout each day, so any concern should be reported via this platform.

The DSL will ensure that they have identified the most vulnerable pupils in school and at home and will continue to update and manage My Concern. Where necessary they will continue to liaise with pupil's social workers and where they need access to pupils this will be arranged either in school or at their home.

Monitoring Attendance

The school will continue to monitor attendance throughout the changes caused by the DfE RAAC guidance. We will also follow guidance from the DfE on how to record attendance for those pupils receiving remote learning or being educated on an alternative site. We will use Code B: off-site educational activity, therefore by using code B we are stating that our school is certifying that the education is supervised and measures have been taken to safeguard pupils. Where any pupil we expect to attend school doesn't attend, or stops attending, we will:

- Follow up on their absence with their parents/carers, by first day absence telephone calls or text;
- Arrange home visits;
- Notify their social worker, where they have one;

Pupils at Home

The school will maintain contact with pupils who are at home. Staff will try to speak directly to pupils at home to help identify any concerns. They will use school phones and devices to make calls home. Or, if necessary, they will use personal phones but they will withhold their personal number and delete their call log at the end of each call.

Staff will be vigilant for any signs of potential concerns such as:

- Pupils not completing assigned work or logging on to school systems for any length of time
- No contact from pupils or families
- Pupils appearing more withdrawn during any communications

Online Safety

Where staff are interacting with pupils online, they will continue to follow our existing staff code of conduct and IT acceptable use policy. Staff will continue to be alert to signs that a pupil may be at risk of harm online, and act on any concerns immediately, following our school reporting procedures. We will ensure pupils know how to report any concerns they have back to their teacher or parent/carer.

We will ensure parents and carers are aware of the potential risks to pupils online and the importance of staying safe online. We will provide them with the details of all online learning so that they are aware of what is being asked of their child, which sites they will be using and who they will be interacting with from our school.

Mental Health and Well-being

Where possible, we will continue to offer our current support for pupil mental health for all pupils, through welfare checks via telephone. We will also signpost all pupils, parents/carers and staff to other resources to support good mental health at this time. When setting expectations for pupils learning remotely and not attending school, teachers will bear in mind the potential impact of the current situation on both children's and adults' mental health.

Staff and volunteers will be alert to mental health concerns in pupils who are at home, and act on these immediately, following our reporting procedures in school.