

BGS Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures During School Closure 2020

Safeguarding Advice for Parents / Carers and Students

The school's Safeguarding Team will continue to monitor vulnerable students during the period of closure and maintain contact with the relevant services.

If you have a safeguarding concern to report during the period of school closure, please contact us via School Enquiries - enquiries@bexleygs.co.uk

If you have an urgent concern about a young person please contact Bexley Children's Services directly on 0208 303 7777 or Greenwich Children's Services on 020 8921 3172, or the relevant branch of the emergency services.

Should students require support for safeguarding or child protection issues during the school closure there are a number of sources of support:

- Bexley Children's Services - 020 3045 5440.
- Greenwich Children's Services - 020 8921 3172
- <https://www.kooth.com> - a free online counselling and emotional well-being support service for young people aged 11-19 in Bexley
- www.healtheme.co.uk - Access to the Bexley and Bromley School nursing service
- NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000 Contact professional counsellors for help, advice and support
- Childline: 0800 1111 - Free, confidential advice and support for children and young people

In the event that you are unable to gain advice and support from any of these sources and are concerned about a child's safety contact the emergency services.

Children who are vulnerable, part of an EHCP and / or children of Key Workers

Following the announcement by the Secretary of State for Education, schools will remain open for the parents of those deemed to be vulnerable (subject to a CSC plan), those with an EHCP and / or the children of key workers:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

The list of key workers can be found in full here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

However, it is important to note the following points within the guidance:

- Many parents working in these critical sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. **Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**
- Children with at least one parent or carer who are identified as critical workers by the government can send their children to school if required.
- This is an offer to parents and carers and there is no requirement for parents and carers to send their children to school if they do not need or wish to do so.
- If workers think they fall within the critical categories above they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.

Safeguarding Advice for Staff

Remote Learning

All staff will continue to set work in line with the school's policy on remote learning.

Parents / Carers have also been given information on what to expect during the school closure:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sU3Ajjk1pKK38T2h5Na6IWNzqwTr45hoL35uOPXTHrY/edit>

When educating students remotely, staff should bear the following guidance in mind:

- Use school email addresses only when communicating with students and other staff about classes, work etc.
- The school strongly advises against using Skype, Google Hangout or any other form of live streaming from home.
- Do not use your personal phone number to contact parents or students.
- Questions regarding the work set should be from students via Google Classroom - parents have been advised to raise any concerns or queries through the School Enquiries.

Safeguarding Procedures

If a member of staff has a safeguarding concern about a young person during the period of school closure, they should follow the school's usual safeguarding procedures and contact Hugh Gilmore (as Designated Safeguarding Lead) via confidential record of concern form from the school's Template Gallery.

If it is not practical to use the referral form an email will suffice under the circumstances.

If you have not received a response in 24 hours please contact Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads, Vicky Ellis or Steve Elphick.

Any member of school staff with a concern can contact Bexley Children's Services directly on 0208 303 7777 or Greenwich Children's Services on 020 8921 3172.

Safeguarding vulnerable students who are not on site during School Closure

- **Students who are subject to a Child in Need or Child Protection Plan**

Parents of students who have a social worker assigned by their Local Authority were contacted by the DSL on Friday 20th March, as were their assigned social workers and other professionals working the families.

All were made aware that the school was open to the children should it be the safest possible option for them.

They, and all other parents / carers, have been signposted to a range of support, such as local Children's Services and Chuldine, via the school website.

- **Keeping in contact with vulnerable students during School Closure**

The school's DSL and Deputy DSLs carried out a RAB (Red, Amber or Blue) assessment of those students who were part of a CP/CIN plan and also those deemed to be vulnerable who are not part of a CP/CIN plan. This document determines the level of risk the DSL believes the students are at whilst being off school as well as outlining the recommendations actions for trying to keep them safe. These actions are likely to be strongly influenced by government guidance on social distancing and restrictions on movement as of 23rd March 2020 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing->

[and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults](#)

- **Guidelines for maintaining contact with vulnerable students during School Closure**

Whilst age, stage and level of risk will influence what actions are taken to keep vulnerable children safe the following principles should be adhered to:

- The DSL should ensure that the school has up to date contact details for the children identified by the RAB assessment
- The relevant LA Children's Social care professional should be kept informed of any conversations and / or developments
- Other professionals working with the child should be identified and kept informed
- Any concerns should be flagged immediately
- Contact should be once a week during the period of closure, twice for anyone identified as a 'Red' risk by the DSL
- The DSL will contact the students identified by phone using a school number only
- If the school is closed the DSL out of hours phone can be used
- All conversations and updates will be recorded on the child's safeguarding file
- The DSL should speak to the child as well as the parents

In the event that it is felt a home visit is necessary to check the welfare of individual students, the following principles should be adhered to:

- Make sure to see and speak to pupils
- Speak to them on the doorstep, or see them through a window if they're self-isolating
- Avoid close contact with them (closer than 2 metres for more than 15 minutes), in line with government advice on social distancing
- Avoid staff going to pupils' homes alone. Have two members of staff go, ideally including someone with a good relationship with the family.