

# Rainow Primary School

*Caring, Learning, Achieving.*

## EYFS Safeguarding, Health, and Safety Policy

Rainow Primary School

Cheshire East Local Authority

Headteacher: Mr. Jonathan Norris

Reviewed annually – next review due October 2026

### 1. Introduction and Purpose

This policy sets out Rainow Primary School's approach to ensuring that all Reception-aged children are educated, cared for, and safeguarded in accordance with statutory Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) requirements, safeguarding law, and Rainow Primary School's approach to ensuring that all Reception-aged children are educated, cared for, and safeguarded in line with statutory Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) requirements, safeguarding law and health and safety legislation. The policy ensures the welfare of all children, supports staff and governors in their duties, and promotes a culture where every child is safe, healthy, and able to thrive. **It should be read in conjunction with the school's suite of Safeguarding and Health and Safety Policies.**

### 2. Legal and Regulatory Framework

This policy is underpinned by the following key statutory and regulatory frameworks:

- Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework (January 2024, with updates from September 2025)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE, 2024)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023)
- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Education and Training (Welfare of Children) Act 2021
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999

- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations
- Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005
- Food Hygiene (England) Regulations 2006
- Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (Cheshire East)

### **3. Roles and Responsibilities**

- The Governing Body ensures policies are in place, reviewed regularly, and that safeguarding and health & safety standards are met.
- The Headteacher (Mr. Jonathan Norris) has overall accountability for safeguarding and health & safety within Reception.
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), Nicola Daley oversees safeguarding procedures, referrals, and staff training.
- Reception staff are responsible for maintaining safe environments, reporting concerns, and implementing daily welfare practices.
- All staff and volunteers must complete safeguarding and health & safety induction and ongoing training.

### **4. Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures**

Rainow Primary School adheres to the Cheshire East Safeguarding Children Partnership guidance. All staff must follow safe recruitment practices, maintain up-to-date DBS checks, and receive safeguarding training. Any concerns or disclosures must be immediately reported to the DSL and recorded on Cpoms. Confidential records are kept securely and shared only with authorised personnel.

Procedures include:

- Safe recruitment and DBS verification – see whole school policy
- Staff induction – see whole school policy
- Staff should have a minimum of safeguarding training biannually, which is extra to the schools three yearly policy
- Recognising and responding to abuse or neglect – see school policy
- Allegations against staff procedures (report to LADO) - see school policy
- Child-on-child abuse prevention and response – see school policy
- Online safety and acceptable use – see school policy
- Drop-off and collection protocols – see school policy

## 5. Health and Safety and Welfare

Rainow Primary School is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all children, staff, and visitors. The school complies with all relevant health and safety legislation, conducts regular risk assessments, and maintains premises to exacting standards.

Key areas include:

- Daily risk assessments of indoor and outdoor areas
- Fire safety drills and emergency procedures
- First aid provision (at least one pediatric first aider in the Reception setting at all times)
- Accident and incident recording
- Infection control and hygiene procedures
- Safe food preparation and allergen management
- Staff-child ratios in accordance with EYFS statutory guidance
- Safe use of equipment and materials

### 5a Choking Prevention and Response (Safer Eating)

Rainow Primary School is fully committed to ensuring children's safety during all meal and snack times. We follow the most recent **EYFS (2025) statutory guidance** and national best practice to minimise choking risk and ensure staff are prepared to respond swiftly and effectively to any choking incident.

#### *Legal and Regulatory Context*

- The **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) 2025 Statutory Framework** introduces new "*Safer Eating*" provisions (sections 3.63 – 3.70), effective from **September 2025**, requiring that food is prepared in a manner that reduces choking risk and that at least **one paediatric first-aid qualified member of staff** is present whenever children are eating.
- Guidance from the **Food Standards Agency** and **Child Accident Prevention Trust** highlights that children under five are at elevated risk of choking due to smaller airways and immature chewing skills.
- **First aid guidance** from St John Ambulance, the British Red Cross and the Resuscitation Council UK set out the correct response to a choking incident:
  - *Under 1 year old*: Up to five back blows followed by up to five chest thrusts.
  - *Over 1 year old*: Up to five back blows followed by up to five abdominal thrusts.
  - If obstruction persists, **call 999 immediately** and continue first-aid measures until help arrives.

## *Procedures at Rainbow Primary School*

### **Food Preparation**

- All foods served to Reception children are assessed for choking risk and prepared appropriately.
- High-risk foods such as whole nuts, popcorn, marshmallows, and raw jelly cubes are **not** served to children under five.
- Children must always be **seated** when eating and are closely always supervised by staff.

### **Supervision and Staffing**

- A minimum of one member of staff with a current **pediatric first aid** qualification is present during all mealtimes and snack times.
- Staff remain vigilant for any signs of choking (e.g., inability to speak or cough, silent distress, cyanosis) and act immediately using the approved first-aid procedures.

### **Record Keeping**

- All choking incidents or near-misses are recorded in the school's **Accident and Incident Log** and reviewed by the **EYFS Lead and Headteacher**.
- Parents/carers are informed on the same day, and preventative measures are reviewed.

### **Training and Awareness**

- All Reception staff receive first aid training that includes training on choking prevention, safe food preparation, and emergency first-aid response.
- Training is refreshed whenever national guidance changes or after any incident review.

### **Parental Engagement**

- Parents/carers are asked to share information about any medical or developmental conditions that may increase a child's choking risk.
- The school provides families with information on safe snack choices, portion sizes, and supervision guidelines to support consistency between home and school.

### **Risk Assessment**

- Mealtime risk assessments include specific choking hazards and are updated termly or after any incident.
- Outdoor snack times and special events are also risk-assessed to ensure safe supervision.

## **6. Emergency Procedures and Business Continuity**

The school maintains a clear emergency plan, including fire, lockdown, medical emergencies, and severe weather procedures. Evacuation routes and assembly points are displayed, and regular drills are held. Parents will be informed of any serious incidents as appropriate.

## **7. Visitors, Contractors, and Volunteers**

All visitors and volunteers are required to sign in, show identification, and wear a visitor badge. Contractors working on site must provide evidence of risk assessments and safety practices. Volunteers are always supervised and require DBS clearance.

## **8. Parental Engagement**

The school actively works with parents to promote the welfare of children. Parents are informed about safeguarding procedures, collection arrangements, and illness reporting. The school shares guidance on health, hygiene, and online safety.

## **9. Monitoring, Review and Governance**

This policy is monitored and reviewed annually by the Headteacher, EYFS leader, DSL, and Governors, or earlier if required by legislative changes or incidents. The next review is due in October 2026.

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (Headteacher – Mr. Jonathan Norris)