



Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

The safety and wellbeing of all children is our highest priority. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and adults involved in the setting to share this commitment.

We aim to provide a safe, secure and nurturing environment where children feel protected, valued and respected.

Safeguarding Responsibilities

All staff have a responsibility to safeguard children and to act in the best interests of every child. Staff are trained to recognise signs of possible abuse, neglect or safeguarding concerns and understand the procedures to follow if they have concerns about a child's welfare.

We follow the safeguarding requirements set out in the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)** and local safeguarding procedures.

Types of Abuse

Staff are aware that abuse can take different forms, including:

- **Physical abuse** – causing physical harm to a child
- **Emotional abuse** – persistent emotional mistreatment that affects a child's development
- **Sexual abuse** – forcing or encouraging a child to take part in sexual activities
- **Neglect** – the ongoing failure to meet a child's basic physical and emotional needs

Staff are trained to remain alert to any signs or changes in a child's behaviour that may indicate a safeguarding concern.

Responding to Concerns

If a member of staff has concerns about a child's safety or welfare they will:

- Record the concern accurately and factually
- Report the concern immediately to the designated safeguarding lead (DSL)

- Follow safeguarding procedures and seek advice from appropriate safeguarding agencies where necessary

If a child is believed to be at immediate risk of harm, appropriate authorities will be contacted without delay.

Confidentiality

All safeguarding concerns will be treated with sensitivity and confidentiality. Information will only be shared with relevant professionals where necessary to protect a child.

Allegations Against Staff

Any allegations made against staff or adults working with children will be taken seriously and dealt with in accordance with safeguarding procedures. Appropriate agencies will be informed where necessary.

Safer Recruitment

We follow safer recruitment procedures to ensure that all staff working with children are suitable to do so. This includes obtaining references and carrying out the required background checks.

Partnership with Parents

We work in partnership with parents and carers to support children's safety and wellbeing. However, where there are concerns about a child's welfare, we have a duty to share information with safeguarding agencies if necessary.

Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure it remains effective and reflects current safeguarding guidance and legislation.