



Safeguarding Children Policy

Policy Statement

Our setting is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children. We believe that every child has the right to be protected from harm and to grow up in a safe and supportive environment.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. All staff, students and volunteers must be alert to signs of abuse or neglect and must act immediately if they have concerns about a child's welfare.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

The setting has a **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)** responsible for safeguarding and child protection.

The DSL will:

- Ensure safeguarding policies are implemented and reviewed
- Support staff in recognising and reporting concerns
- Liaise with safeguarding agencies and professionals
- Keep accurate safeguarding records
- Ensure staff receive safeguarding training and updates

A deputy safeguarding lead will support the DSL when required.

Types of Abuse

Staff are trained to recognise the possible signs of abuse. Abuse may include:

Physical abuse – deliberately causing harm or injury.

Emotional abuse – persistent emotional maltreatment affecting a child's emotional development.

Sexual abuse – forcing or encouraging a child to take part in sexual activities.

Neglect – failure to meet a child’s basic physical or emotional needs.

Recognising Safeguarding Concerns

Staff may notice:

- unexplained injuries
- sudden changes in behaviour
- withdrawn or anxious behaviour
- poor hygiene or inadequate clothing
- concerning comments made by a child

Any concern must be taken seriously.

Responding to Concerns

If a member of staff has concerns about a child they must:

1. Report the concern immediately to the **DSL**.
2. Record the concern clearly and factually.
3. Maintain confidentiality.

Staff must **never promise confidentiality to a child** and must not investigate concerns themselves.

The DSL will decide whether a referral should be made to children’s services.

Recording Concerns

All safeguarding concerns will be recorded accurately and securely.

Records will include:

- date and time of the concern
- details of what was observed or disclosed
- actions taken
- outcomes where known

Records will be stored confidentially and shared only with appropriate professionals.

Prevent Duty and Radicalisation

Under the Prevent Duty, staff have a responsibility to be aware of the risk of children being exposed to extremist views.

Staff will:

- promote respect and tolerance
- monitor children's welfare
- report any concerns to the DSL

Any concerns will be managed in line with safeguarding procedures.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Staff are aware that FGM is a form of abuse and is illegal in the UK. Any concerns relating to FGM will be reported immediately to the DSL and referred to appropriate safeguarding agencies.

Online Safety

The setting recognises that technology can pose risks to children.

Staff will:

- supervise children when using technology
 - ensure online resources are appropriate
 - follow the setting's mobile phone and camera procedures
-

Allegations Against Staff

Any allegation or concern about a staff member will be taken seriously and managed in line with safeguarding procedures.

The setting will seek advice from the **Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)** where appropriate and inform relevant authorities where required.

Whistleblowing

Staff are encouraged to report concerns about unsafe practice or safeguarding issues.

If staff feel unable to raise concerns internally they may report concerns directly to appropriate authorities.

All concerns will be taken seriously and investigated appropriately.

Safe Recruitment

The setting follows safer recruitment procedures to ensure staff are suitable to work with children. This includes:

- enhanced DBS checks
 - reference checks
 - identity and qualification checks
-

Staff Training

All staff receive safeguarding training and regular updates so they can recognise and respond to safeguarding concerns appropriately.

Working with Parents

We work in partnership with parents and carers to support children's welfare and safety.

However, the safety of the child is always the priority and information may be shared with safeguarding professionals where necessary.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if safeguarding guidance changes.