

Safeguarding Policy Statement

At this childcare/education setting, we are dedicated to ensuring the safety and well-being of all the children under our care. We acknowledge our responsibility to protect children from harm, and this safeguarding policy outlines our commitment to safeguarding and promoting their welfare.

Legal Framework and Definitions:

For the purpose of this policy, the term "child" applies to individuals under the age of 18.

Key Principles:

Our safeguarding policy is guided by the following key principles:

- Every child has the inherent right to be safe and protected from harm.
- The welfare of the child is paramount.
- All volunteers are well-trained and vigilant in identifying signs of abuse or neglect.
- We collaborate with parents and external agencies to ensure the safety and well-being of all children.
- Information pertaining to child protection and safeguarding is shared on a need-to-know basis while maintaining confidentiality.

Identifying and Reporting Concerns:

We maintain open and transparent communication with parents and ensure they are informed if we have concerns about their child's welfare. If any individual/member suspects that a child is at risk of harm or abuse, we strictly adhere to local safeguarding procedures and make referrals to the appropriate authorities.

Record Keeping:

We maintain clear and confidential records of any safeguarding concerns or incidents involving children in our care.

Safer Recruitment:

Our safeguarding policy includes the practice of safer recruitment, which involves thorough background checks for all volunteers.

Review and Updates:

This safeguarding policy undergoes an annual review, or as necessary, to reflect changes in legislation, practice, or personnel.

Commitment to Safeguarding:

We believe that safeguarding is the shared responsibility of every adult within this childcare/education setting. Our commitment is to create a safe, nurturing, and inclusive environment where children can learn, develop, and thrive.

Availability and Sharing of the Policy:

This safeguarding policy serves as a framework for our practices and is an integral part of our dedication to child protection. It is shared with all parents and is readily available upon request.

Legislation:

The principal pieces of legislation and statutory duties governing this policy are as follows:

- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage
- Prevent Duty 2015

Definition:

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development
- Ensuring children grow up in circumstances consistent with safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

Safeguarding action may be needed to protect children from a wide range of risks and issues, including but not limited to neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, bullying (including online and prejudice-based bullying), and various forms of exploitation.

Broader Aspects of Care and Education:

Safeguarding also relates to broader aspects of care and education, including children's health, safety, well-being, meeting the needs of children with medical conditions, providing first aid, educational visits, online safety, and issues related to the Prevent Duty.

Implementation:

This safeguarding policy is broad in scope and will be implemented through a range of additional policies and procedures within our setting, including but not limited to the Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy, Missing Child Policy, Health and Safety Policy, Equal Opportunities Policy, Data Protection Policy, Confidentiality Policy, Prevent Duty Policy, and Safe Recruitment Policy.

Safe Recruitment:

Before commencing employment, all volunteers are subject to Ofsted and Capita's safe recruitment procedures. Enhanced DBS checks are completed for all volunteers. During regular supervision sessions, staff members are expected to disclose any convictions, cautions, court orders, reprimands, and warnings that may affect their suitability to work with children.

Communication, Training, and Support for Staff:

We commit resources to the induction, training, communication, and support of volunteers any any members concerning safeguarding.

This comprehensive safeguarding policy is an essential part of our commitment to providing a secure and nurturing environment for children's development and well-being.

Signed:**Date:****Review date:**