

Safeguarding Children Policy (Incorporating Child Protection Procedures)

The Safeguarding & Welfare Requirements of the Statutory Framework states:

'Children learn best when they are healthy, safe and secure, when their individual needs are met, and when they have the positive relationships with the adults caring for them.'
(EYFS 2024)

The section of the Childcare Register relating to this policy is: CR2.1-CR2.3

Overall and final responsibility for Safeguarding within the company is that of:

The Operations Director

Operational responsibility for ensuring this policy is put into practice by settings is delegated to:

The Operations Director/Group Operations Manager

Day to day responsibility for ensuring this policy is put into practice by settings is delegated to:

Designated Senior Member for Safeguarding (DSMS/DSP)

(Local authorities may use different names e.g., Designated Senior Person but they are the same meaning)

The Designated Senior Member for Safeguarding (DSMS) at your site is:

Studley:	Emily Woodward	Coughton:	Holly Burgess
Northfield:	Janette Moran	Matchborough:	Leanne Davis
Wigwam:	Janette Moran	St Mary's:	Vanessa Lealan
Evesham:	Charlie Simmons	Bell Green:	Emma Holding
Barley Lea:	Sheron Hamilton	Lower Quinton:	Anna Brown
Crabbs Cross:	Paula Cooper		

Aims

The purpose of this safeguarding policy is to provide a secure framework for the Bright Kids workforce in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of those children/young people who attend our setting. The policy aims to ensure that:

All our children are safe and protected from harm.

Other elements of provision and policies are in place to enable children to feel safe and adopt safe practices. Staff, children, visitors, volunteers and parents are aware of the expected behaviours' and the settings legal responsibilities in relation to the safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all of our children.

Included in our practices to safeguard children is the need for staff to be vigilant to our children and families being influenced by extremist propaganda and radicalisation, as described within the Prevent Duty guidance. This includes supporting British Values as defined by Government on 1st July 2015 to be ensuring we uphold

Democracy: making decisions together, for example giving opportunities to develop enquiring minds in an atmosphere where questions are valued.

Rule of law: understanding rules matter as cited in Personal Social and Emotional development for example collaborating with children to create rules and codes of behaviour.

Individual liberty: freedom for all, for example reflecting on their differences and understanding we are free to have different opinions

Mutual respect and tolerance: treat others as you want to be treated, for example sharing and respecting other's opinions

The ethos of the "British Values" are inherent in our policies and procedures, in our planning for children's learning and development and in our Partnership with Parents.

Bright Kids will not tolerate any failure to challenge behaviours (whether of staff, children or parents) that are not in line with the fundamental British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs

All children deserve the opportunity to achieve their full potential. In 2003, the Government published Every Child Matters Green Paper alongside the formal response to the report into the death of Victoria Climbié. The Green Paper set out five outcomes that are key to children and young people's well-being:

- be healthy;
- stay safe;
- enjoy and achieve;
- make a positive contribution; and
- achieve economic wellbeing.

The five outcomes are universal ambitions for every child and young person, whatever their background or circumstances. Improving outcomes for all children and young people underpins all of the development and work within this setting.

Responsibilities

Safeguarding in Bright Kids is considered everyone's responsibility and as such our settings aim to create the safest environment within which every child has the opportunity to achieve their full potential. We recognize the contribution it can make in ensuring that all children registered with our setting feel that they will be listened to and appropriate action taken. We will do this by working in partnership with other agencies and seeking to establish effective working relationships with parents, carers and other colleagues to develop and provide activities and opportunities throughout our curriculum that will help to equip our children with the skills they need. This will include materials and learning experiences that will encourage our children to develop essential life skills and protective behaviours. In addition we:

Prevent abuse by good practice –

- Each child will be assigned a key person.
- Staff are not left alone for long periods with individuals or groups of children.
- We employ a robust supervision strategy and supervision meeting system
- Although it is appropriate to cuddle children, staff are advised not to do this in isolation
- When changing nappies, or soiled/wet clothing – the door remains open.
- Discipline procedures take place in full view of others.
- Adults who are not yet approved 'fit' persons cannot take children to the toilet unaccompanied.
- Inappropriate behaviours such as over tickling, over boisterous or inappropriate questions such as asking children to tell them they love them is discouraged.

Encourage self-confidence

- children are encouraged to be independent to name their own feelings and finding ways to express themselves. This enables children to have self-confidence and the vocabulary to resist inappropriate approaches.

Be vigilant

- by ensuring that the issues of child protection receive continuous attention and regularly review the way we operate to support this principle.

Report

- inappropriate behaviour displayed by other members of staff, or any other person working with the children,
- Any significant changes in staff members behaviour patterns. For example, inappropriate sexual comments; excessive one-to-one attention beyond the requirements of their usual role and responsibilities; or inappropriate sharing of images.

It is the responsibility of the Operations Director to ensure that all staff and volunteers are properly checked to make sure they are safe to work with the children who attend our setting, to achieve this we:

Exclude known abusers – be ensuring all applicants for work are informed of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 exclusion clause and know that DBS and Medical checks are carried out. Specific Recruitment Procedures (SD1) are always followed and two up to date and relevant references are also taken up on prospective employees. All employees work under a probationary period where they are closely supervised. During Induction Child Protection procedures are discussed and training needs analysed.

It is the responsibility of the DSMS/DSP to ensure that all safeguarding issues raised in setting are timeously and effectively responded to, recorded and referred to the appropriate agency. The Training Coordinator in conjunction with the DSMS/DSP is responsible for arranging the whole settings safeguarding training for all staff and volunteers who work with children and young people. The DSMS/DSP must ensure that the whole settings safeguarding training takes place at least every three years.

Training should be broad and encompass a holistic view of safeguarding by their awareness of the child's life and everyone that the child comes into contact with

however well known they are to the child. As well as training staff to understand our safeguarding policy and procedures, and ensure that all staff have up to date knowledge of safeguarding issues which enable staff to identify signs of possible abuse and neglect at the earliest opportunity, and to respond in a timely and appropriate way.

The DSMS/DSP is required to attend (or ensure that a senior member of staff who has the relevant training and access to appropriate supervision), attends where appropriate, all child protection case conferences, reviews, core groups or meetings where it concerns a child at our setting and to contribute to multi-agency discussions to safeguard and promote the child's welfare.

The Manager in conjunction with the DSMS/DSP is responsible for ensuring the acceptable, safe use and storage of all camera technology, images, and mobile phones through the implementation, monitoring and reviewing of the appropriate policies and procedures.

Early Help Services:

Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years.

Early Help relies upon local agencies working together to:

Identify children and families who would benefit from early help.

Undertake an assessment of the need for early help and:

Provide targeted early help services to address the assessed needs of a child and their family which focuses on activity to significantly improve the outcomes for the child.

Recognising concerns, signs and indicators of abuse

Safeguarding is not just about protecting children from deliberate harm. For our setting it includes such things as child safety, bullying, racist abuse and harassment, visits, intimate care (including female genital mutilation), poor parenting, substance mis-use, gender inequalities and online/internet safety as well as all aspects of a child's safety and security.

However it must be acknowledged that technology itself will not present the greatest risk, but the behaviours of individuals using such equipment will. The witnessing of abuse can have a damaging affect on those who are party to it, as well as the child subjected to the actual abuse, and in itself will have a significant impact on the health and emotional well-being of the child. Abuse can take place in any family, institution or community setting, by telephone or on the internet. Abuse can often be difficult to recognise as children may behave differently or seem unhappy for many reasons, as they move through the stages of childhood or their family circumstances change. However, it is important to know the indicators of abuse and to be alert to the need to consult further.

Physical Abuse

This can involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, punching, kicking, scalding, burning, drowning and suffocating. It can also result when a parent or carer deliberately causes the ill health of a child in order to seek attention through fabricated or induced illness. This was previously known as Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy.

Procedure

- a) Any sign of a mark/injury to a child when they come into Setting will be recorded on HS2.2 Record of Markings form

- b) The incident will be discussed with the parent/carer.
- c) Such discussion will be recorded and a note made on the child's Accident Tracker (HS1.2) filed in their development record and the parent/carer will have access to such records.
- d) If there appear to be any queries regarding the injury the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) will be notified.

Emotional Abuse

Emotional Abuse is where a child's need for love, security, recognition and praise is not met. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of someone else such as in Domestic Violence or Domestic Abuse. A parent, carer or authority figure is considered emotionally abusive when they are consistently hostile, rejecting, threatening or undermining toward a child or other family member. It can also occur when children are prevented from having social contact with others or if inappropriate expectations are placed upon them. Symptoms that indicate emotional abuse include:

- Excessively clingy or attention seeking.
- Very low self-esteem or excessive self-criticism.
- Withdrawn behaviour or fearfulness.
- Lack of appropriate boundaries with strangers; too eager to please.
- Eating disorders or self-harm

Procedure

- a) The concern will be discussed with the parent/carer.
- b) Such discussion will be recorded and the parent/carer will have access to such reports.
- c) If there appear to be any queries regarding the circumstances, the matter will be referred to the Local Safeguarding Children's Board

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. This may include physical contact both penetrative and non-penetrative, or viewing pornographic material including through the use of the internet. Indicators of sexual abuse include: allegations or disclosures, genital soreness, injuries or disclosure, sexually transmitted diseases, inappropriate sexualized behaviour including words, play or drawing.

Procedure

- a) The observed instances will be reported to the Manager or the Deputy.
- b) The matter will be referred to the Local Safeguarding Children's Board

Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs which can significantly harm their health and development. Neglect can include inadequate supervision (being left alone for long periods of time), lack of stimulation, social contact or education, lack of appropriate food, shelter, appropriate clothing for conditions and medical attention and treatment when necessary.

Procedure

- a) The concern will be discussed with the parent/main carer.

- b) Such discussion will be recorded and the parent/carer will have access to such records.
- c) If there appear to be any queries regarding the circumstances the Local Safeguarding Children's Board will be notified.

Radicalisation: is a process by which an individual or group comes to adopt increasingly extreme political, social, or religious ideals and aspirations that (1) reject or undermine the status quo or (2) reject and/or undermine contemporary ideas and expressions of freedom of choice. Where concerns of radicalisation are identified through changes in children's behaviour, utterances or attitudes that are not appropriate or unexplained absences then these need to be reported.

Prevent Duty: Prevent duty became law back in 2015. This is a duty on all Early Years professionals to have due regard to preventing people being drawn into terrorism. In order to protect children in your care, you must be alert to any reason for concern in the child's life at home or elsewhere. This includes awareness of the expression of extremist views.

British values are a set of four values introduced to help keep children safe and promote their welfare – as is the duty of all providers following the EYFS; specifically to counter extremism.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Missing and Trafficking

BrightKids, like every other childcare provision, could be faced with the challenge of tackling the issue of children going missing from home, care or school, being abused through child sexual exploitation and being trafficked. These issues are a key, strategic priority for us and to reduce the number of young people harmed by child sexual exploitation, should we be faced with this situation.

Procedure

- a) The observed instances will be reported to the Manager or the Deputy and DSMS/DSP
- b) The matter will be referred to the Local Safeguarding Children's Board

or call the DfE dedicated telephone line for practitioners on 020 7340 7264 directly.

Female Genital mutilation (FGM)

As our duty of care, we have a statutory obligation under national safeguarding protocols (e.g working together to safeguard children) to protect young girls and women from FGM as it is an illegal, extremely harmful practise and a form of abuse.

It is essential that we work closely together with other agencies if we suspect a child has suffered or is likely to suffer FGM as appropriate safeguarding efforts. This is reflected in the Multi-Agency Practise Guidelines.

If a child in our care shows signs and symptoms (see below) of FGM or we have good reason to suspect the child is at risk of FGM, we **MUST** refer the child using our existing standard safeguarding procedures as it is a form of child abuse. When a child is identified

as “at risk” of FGM, this information MUST be brought to the child's GP attention and health visitor (as per section 47 of The Children's Act 1989)

Exploitation

Exploitation is a form of abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child, young person or adult (including those with care and support needs) into any activity that results in financial or other advantage for the perpetrator(s) or facilitator(s). Activity includes arranging or facilitating the involvement or travel (trafficking) of a child, young person or adult (including those with care and support needs)

Specific types of exploitation include:

- **Modern Slavery – encompasses** slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment.
- **Sexual Exploitation** is a form of sexual abuse. A person can be a victim of sexual exploitation if sex takes place and:
 - it is in exchange for basic necessities, such as food, shelter or protection
 - it is in exchange for something they need or want
 - they are made to feel frightened of the consequences if they do not (coercion)
 - the person who is exploiting them stands to gain financially or socially
- **Criminal Exploitation** is common in county lines and occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a vulnerable adult
- **Financial Exploitation** can take the form of **fraud, theft or using of the vulnerable adults property without their permission**. This could involve large sums of money or just small amounts from a pension or allowance each week.
- **Radicalisation** is the word commonly used to describe the mental process a person goes through as they get drawn down a dangerous path. If someone is becoming radicalised it means they are displaying extreme views in support of extreme ideologies or beliefs, terrorist groups and activities.
- *Any other Exploitation that enables services or benefits of any kind, including:*
 - *Removal of organs*
 - *Forced marriage*
 - *Illegal adoption*

The victim may still be exploited even if the activities that they are engaging in appear consensual.

Multiple types of exploitation can occur alongside or as part of other forms of abuse.

What to do if you are concerned

If a child makes an allegation or disclosure of abuse against an adult or other child or young person, or says something to give you cause for concern, it is important that you:

- Stay calm and listen carefully.
- Reassure them that they have done the right thing in telling you.
- Do not investigate or ask leading questions.
- Let them know that you will need to tell someone else.
- Do not promise to keep what they have told you a secret.
- Inform your DSMS/DSP as soon as possible.
- Make a written record of the allegation, disclosure or incident which you must sign, date and record your position on the Report of Concern (HS2.1) and Record of Markings (HS2.2) if appropriate
- Record all subsequent events up to the time of seeking specialist advice

If you are concerned that a member of staff or adult in a position of trust poses a danger to a child or young person or that they might be abusing a child or young person you should report your concerns to the DSMS/DSP. Where those concerns relate to the DSMS/DSP however, this should be reported to the Group Management Executive or Chief Executive using the settings Whistle blowing policy (HS2.5).

Child Protection Procedures:

The setting must have regard to the Government's statutory guidance '**Working Together to Safeguard Children**' (2023) which can be downloaded on the Head Office drive EYFS Resources. The Setting has a duty to report any suspicions about abuse to the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). The Children Acts 1989 & 2004 (Section 47(1)) places a duty on the LSCB to investigate such matters. The Children Act 2006 requires settings to follow the EYFS requirements for safeguarding. The Setting will follow the procedures set out in these documents and their local LSCB Documents, an overview of which will be supplied to you in your Induction Pack, and as such will seek their advice on all steps taken subsequently.

All staff should be aware and take the time to read the Department of Health booklet '**What to do if you are worried a child is being abused**' (DCSF:2015) also available on Head Office drive EYFS Resources and ensure they are aware that posters relating to this document are on display within the setting for their own or parents referral. Individual copies are available if required by contacting the number on the booklet.

The Designated Senior Member for Safeguarding/Designated Senior Person (as specified at each site) will need to be informed by the staff member or Room Leader who has become aware of a concern over the child. A Report of Concern (HS2.1) form will need to be completed in all cases. Any subsequent discussions with parent and carers should be initiated via the DSMS/DSP and thereafter under the guidance of Local Safeguarding

Children's Board (LSCB) guidelines. All Report of Concerns will remain confidential, not be openly discussed and kept in a secure location in the office.

Ofsted also need to be informed of all referrals made to the LSCB. Ofsted should be contacted as soon as is reasonably practicable but at the latest within 14 days of the allegation being made.

Professional Abuse Procedures (Allegations against professionals/member of staff)

We are aware of the possibility of allegations being made against members of staff or volunteers that are working or may come into contact with children and young people whilst in our setting.

Allegations will usually be that some kind of abuse has taken place. This could include inappropriate behaviour displayed by members of staff or other persons working with the children such as inappropriate sexual comments, excessive one to one attention beyond the requirements their role and responsibilities, inappropriate sharing or images. They can be made by children and young people or other concerned adults. Allegations are made for a variety of reasons:

- Abuse has actually taken place.
- Something has happened to the child that reminds them of a past event – the child is unable to recognize that the situation and people are different; Children can misinterpret your language or your actions.
- Some children recognise that allegations can be powerful and if they are angry with you about something they can make an allegation as a way of hitting out.
- An allegation can be a way of seeking attention.

If an allegation is made against an adult in a position of trust whether they be members of staff or volunteers this should be brought to the immediate attention of the DSMS who will advise the Operations Director and Chief Executive. In the case of the allegation being made against the DSMS this will be brought to the immediate attention the Operations Director and Chief Executive. The Suspension Policy (SD6.9) should then be followed.

The Operations Director and Chief Executive will need to discuss with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) the nature of the allegations made against the adult, in order for the appropriate action to be taken. This may constitute an initial evaluation meeting or strategy discussion depending on the allegation being made. The Operations Director and Chief Executive will need to:

Refer to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) immediately and follow up in writing within 48 hours. Consider safeguarding arrangements of the child or young person to ensure they are away from the alleged abuser.

- Contact the parents or carers of the child/young person if advised to do so by the LADO.
- Consider the rights of the staff member for a fair and equal process of investigation.
- The suspected person shall be instantly suspended on full pay until the matter has been resolved through an investigation process.
- Advise Ofsted of allegation within 14 days of the allegation
- Act on any decision made in any strategy meeting.

- Advise the Independent Safeguarding Authority where a member of staff has been disciplined or dismissed as a result of the allegations being founded.

Full Disciplinary measures will be taken against any member of staff found to be undertaking any form of abuse on children. Any proven incidents will be treated as a matter of Gross Misconduct and immediate dismissal without notice will be sought. The right to full pay whilst on suspension will also be withdrawn at this time.

Abuse to Professionals:

If any member of the setting staff is subjected to abuse by either:

- another member of staff
- a parent or carer
- anyone else concerned with the nursery

Then they should report this abuse immediately to the DSMS/DSP:

In the unlikely event that a parent / visitor / other person starts to act in an aggressive or abusive way at the nursery, our policy is to:

- Direct the parent away from the children and into a private area such as the office
- Ensure that a second member of staff be in attendance where possible whilst ensuring the safe supervision of the children
- Act in a calm and professional way, ask the parent to calm down and make it clear that we do not tolerate aggressive or abusive language or behaviour
- Contact the police if the behaviour does not diffuse
- Once the parent calms down, the member of staff will then listen to their concerns and respond appropriately
- An incident record will be completed detailing the time, reason and action taken
- With incidents like this staff may require support and reassurance following the experience, management will provide this and seek further support where necessary
- Management will also signpost parents to further support if applicable

Related Setting Policies

Safeguarding covers more than the contribution made to child protection in relation to individual children. It also encompasses issues such as child health and safety, bullying and a range of other issues, for example, arrangements for meeting the medical needs of children, providing first aid, setting security, drugs and substance misuse, etc.

There may also be other safeguarding issues that are specific to the local area or population' Keeping Children Safe in Education (2015).

This policy will cross reference to related setting policies and procedures:

Access to Information and Confidentiality Policy CC9.4

Accident & Emergency Procedure HS1.0

Behaviour Policy CC2.0

Computer Internet Policy NA12.1

DBS Policy

DBS Procedure NA2.1

Equality and Diversity Policy CC3.1

Failure to Collect Procedure HS8.7

Food & Drink Policy HS6.16
Health & Safety Policy HS0
Infant Sleeping Policy HS2.6
Key Person Policy CC2.4
Managing Access Policy HS8.4
Medication Policy HS7.0
Mobile Phone Policy
Missing Child Procedure CC9.7
Outings & Special Events Policy HS8.14
Parents as Partners Policy CC9.0
Photograph & Camera Use Policy NA12.3
Professional Code of Conduct SD13.8
Recruitment & Selection Policy SD1.0
Smoking Alcohol & Drugs Policy SD13.5
Special Education Needs & Disability Policy CC3.2
Staff Training & Development Policy SD7.0
Sun Protection Policy HS2.3
Suspension Policy SD6.9
Whistle Blowing Policy HS2.5

To Contact Ofsted call **0300 123 1231**

**Ofsted
National Business Unit
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M12 WD**

To contact the Local Authority call:

**Studley, Coughton and Lower Quinton
Warwickshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH):** 01926 414144.
Opening hours: 8am - 5.30pm, Monday to Thursday, Friday 8.30am - 5.00pm.

**Crabbs Cross, Evesham and Matchborough
Family Front Door:** 01905 822666
Opening hours: 8:30-4:30pm, Monday to Friday
Out of hours: 5:00pm-8:00am 01905 768 020

**Northfield and Wigwam
Birmingham CASS:** 0121 303 1888
E-mail: cass@birmingham.gov.uk

Barley Lea and Bell Green
Coventry Safeguarding Children's Partnership: 02476975477
MASH: 02076788555
www.coventry.gov.uk/cscpcontacts/coventrycscp@coventry.gov.uk

Other Useful Contact Numbers

Childline	0800 1111
Pre School Learning Alliance	0121 643 0063 membership no: 53939
PACEY	0300 003 0005
NSPCC	0808 800 5000
Samaritans	020 8394 8300
Family Lives Advice Line	0808 800 2222
Gingerbread (Lone Parents) Advice Line	0808 802 0925
DfE Prevent Line	020 7340 7264

In light of the on-going COVID-19 pandemic please see the companies Risk Assessment, (section 3) should you need more help and guidance on how to keep children safe during this time.

Review date: Sept 24