



# SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

**September 2022**

This policy must be reviewed annually unless there are any changes in legislation or guidance in the interim, in which case the policy must be updated as and when necessary.

**Review Date:** September 2023

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# **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedures**

## **1. Policy statement:**

At Little Poppets Nursery we believe that it is always unacceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind and recognise that safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people is everyone's responsibility. We follow Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership (SSCP) multi-agency procedures and acknowledge that the welfare of the child is paramount.

At Little Poppets Nursery it is our duty to respond promptly and appropriately to all concerns, incidents or allegations of abuse or neglect of a child. We work in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies. Our statutory duties and supporting guidance are set out in The Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements in the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) 2021, the Ofsted Compulsory Childcare Register, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined for the purposes of this policy as:

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

At Little Poppets Nursery we recognise that all children, regardless of who they are or where they are from have the right to protection from all types of abuse. No child or group of children in our Nursery will be treated any less favourably by us than others in being able to access their right to education or other services and support we are reasonably able to provide to or access for them for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting their welfare. This may mean that additional positive actions and/or safeguards may be taken by us to ensure the individual and/or groups of children are not disadvantaged from receiving education or services or disproportionately subjected to abuse

## **This policy is also based on the following legislation and guidance:**

- The Children Act 1989 and 2004 - Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as; protecting children from maltreatment, preventing impairment of children's health or development, ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care and undertaking that role to enable those children to have optimum life chances and to enter adulthood successfully.

Section 3 (5) of the Children Act 1989 states that the law empowers anyone who has care of a child to do all that is reasonable in the circumstances to safeguard his/her welfare.

- [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022](#)
- [The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\) 2021](#)
- [The Ofsted Compulsory Childcare Register](#)
- [Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership Threshold Guidance](#)
- [West Midlands Child Protection Procedures](#)

- Human Rights Act 1998 – it is unlawful for schools and colleges to act in a way that is incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights (the Convention) that apply in the UK.
- Equality Act 2010: Compliance with the Public-Sector Equality Duty (PSED) is a legal requirement for schools and colleges that are public bodies. Schools and colleges that are public bodies have a general duty to have regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity between different groups and to foster good relations between different groups. The duty applies to all protected characteristics and means that whenever significant decisions are being made or policies developed, thought must be given to the equality implications such as, for example, the elimination of sexual violence and sexual harassment.

The Public Sector Equality Duty (as required by s149 of the Equality Act) applies to our Nursery and we refer to the [Equality Act 2010: Government advice for schools](#)

- Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015 – preventing people being drawn into terrorism and promotion of British values to ensure children are kept safe from radicalisation
- Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 – Serious Crime Act 2015 - mandatory reporting of FGM from 31st October 2015 including the [Mandatory reporting of female genital mutilation: procedural information](#)
- Education and Training (Welfare of Children Act 2021
- The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, which outlines when people with criminal convictions can work with children
- [Statutory Guidance on the Prevent Duty](#), which explains schools' duties under the Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015 with respect to protecting people from the risk of radicalisation and extremism

This policy and procedure will also link to other nursery policies & procedures such as:

- Behaviour Management
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Anti-Bullying
- Safer Recruitment
- Special Educational Needs
- Attendance
- Health and Safety

## 2. Procedure

## 2.1 Adult Roles & Responsibilities

All staff (including students and volunteers) in our nursery are familiar with the definitions indicators of abuse or neglect and Safeguarding Issues as outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022 and [West Midlands Child Protection Procedures](#). Staff understand and are alert to the fact that children can be at risk of harm inside and outside of nursery, inside and outside of home and online.

All staff are aware of their individual roles in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children including their responsibility to be alert to any issues for concern in the child's life at home or elsewhere.

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022 Part 1 must be read and understood by all members of the staff. The Manager, Deputy Manager and other designated safeguarding leads, should ensure that those staff who do not work directly with children read either Part one or Annex A.

All Designated Safeguarding Leads, should read KCSiE 2022 in its entirety.

All staff (including students on placement & volunteers) will undergo an induction process to enable them to understand and ensure they are fulfilling their role in safeguarding in our nursery. This will include:

- Being given copies of relevant policies and training to help them understand the systems and processes in nursery which support Safeguarding and the procedures they must follow if they suspect abuse or neglect. Relevant procedures include:
  - Child Protection Policy
  - Behaviour Policy
  - Staff Code of Conduct
  - Procedures for Managing Children Missing Education.
- Appropriate safeguarding and child protection training (including online safety); relevant to their role in our nursery.

On-going support is provided to staff through regular supervision and appraisals to ensure these policies and procedures are put into practice to protect children.

All staff are expected to update their safeguarding and child protection training at least every three years. In addition, all staff members receive regular safeguarding and child protection updates as required via staff meetings, memo's and email, but at least annually, to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who will take the lead for safeguarding and child protection issues is: **Louise Rutter**

The deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are **Jenna Hassall** and **Halina Chajdas**

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead will update their child protection/safeguarding training regularly and has specific responsibilities as listed in **Appendix A**

## 2.2 Information Sharing and Record Keeping

When a concern about a child's welfare or safety is raised it will be discussed with the DSL and recorded. The DSL will decide if the concern should be shared with another agency (see **decision making** below) or kept on record in case future concerns arise.

Records should include:

- A clear and comprehensive summary of the concern;
- Details of how the concern was followed up and resolved;

- A note of any action taken, decisions reached and the outcome.

All records will be stored in a separate confidential file in a locked cabinet with restricted access.

Where children leave nursery (including in year transfers) the designated safeguarding lead will ensure their child protection file is transferred to the new school or nursery as soon as possible, and within 5 days for an in-year transfer or within the first 5 days of the start of the new term. When a child/pupil transfers to another school/nursery within this or another authority, the confidential information held is forwarded under confidential cover and separate from the child's/pupil's main file to the DSL for child protection in the receiving school/setting. This should be transferred separately from the main pupil file, ensuring secure transit and confirmation of receipt should be obtained (**Appendix B**).

In addition to the child protection file the DSL will consider sharing additional information with the new school/nursery in advance of a child leaving. This would be for the purpose of helping the new school/nursery put in place the right support to safeguard this child and to help the child thrive in the school/setting.

Where children have a Social Worker; Local authorities will share this information with the school/nursery, and the DSL will hold and use this information so that decisions can be made in the best interests of the child's safety, welfare and educational outcomes.

Information sharing is vital in identifying and tackling all form of abuse and neglect, and in promoting children's welfare, including their educational outcomes. Schools and colleges have clear powers to share, hold and use information for these purposes. We follow the guidance in the HM Government 2018 guide ['Information sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers'](#) and the Department for Education 2015 guide ['What to do if you are worried a child is being abused'](#).

Staff should be proactive in sharing information as early as possible to help identify, assess, and respond to risks or concerns about the safety and welfare of children, whether this is when problems are first emerging, or where a child is already known to the local authority children's social care. Proprietors are aware that among other obligations, the Data Protection Act 2018, and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) places duties on organisations and individuals to process personal information fairly and lawfully and to keep the information they hold safe and secure.

The Data Protection Act 2018 and UK General Data Protection Regulation **do not** prevent the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe and promoting their welfare. If in any doubt about sharing information, staff should speak to the DSL or a deputy. Fears about sharing information **must not** be allowed to stand in the way of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

When information is being accumulated prior to possible referral we will start a chronology of events – [Shropshire chronology Template](#). Some chronologies will need to be produced for a specific reason; for example: when a new relationship is started, during multi-agency meetings, from the start of a significant event, or from the start of the date parameters set by a statutory case review. The chronology should then continue throughout the intervention, or for as long as is required.

The DSL will regularly review all child protection chronologies to decide if the accumulation of events is having a detrimental impact on a child and must be referred to Compass. If the DSL decides not to refer, the reason will be noted on the child's chronology.

### **2.3 Decision making – 'Accessing the right service at the right time'**

We take a holistic approach to safeguarding all children in our care and recognise that different families need a different level of support at different times. To enable us to recognise at which level a family might require support; we use the Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership Multi-Agency Guidance on Threshold Criteria to help support Children, Young People and their Families in Shropshire: the Shropshire [Threshold Document](#).

The DSL and relevant staff must familiarise themselves with the Threshold Document and should access relevant [Shropshire Council Early Help training and support](#) to enable them to understand the Thresholds Document and support the local multi-agency approach to early help assessment.

This guidance identifies four levels of need to ensure all children receive the support and intervention they need to achieve a positive life experience. Of central importance in understanding where a child's needs might lie on this continuum, is the cooperation and engagement of parents and carers and we aim to develop good, professional relationships to ensure that we have a shared understanding of each child's needs.

It should be noted that if parents demonstrate a lack of co-operation or appreciation about the concerns we identify, this may raise the level of the need and required level of action.

Just because a child is assessed at a point in time as meeting certain threshold criteria does not mean that they always will. An assessment is an on-going process, not an event; children's needs often change over time.

The Designated Lead for Safeguarding will maintain an overview of all children with a plan to ensure children's needs are being met at the right level of intervention.

### **Level 1 – Universal**

Children with no additional needs and where there are no concerns. Typically, these children are likely to live in a resilient and protective environment where their needs are met. These children will require no additional support beyond that which is universally available.

We follow the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2021 to provide individual support for all children. Each child is allocated a key person who will make a relationship both with the child and his or her family. The key person will make observations and keep records to ensure there are no barriers to a child's learning and establish stable and affectionate relationships.

Consent must be sought to access services and share information with others. Any information sharing between agencies without consent must be clear as to its legal basis.

Ensure privacy information is shared with the family and a consent form completed.

Support is provided by services identified as universal in local communities and are available to all. These include: schools, colleges, early years and childcare provision, primary healthcare provision (i.e. GP, hospitals), and the voluntary and community sector.

Universal support will most likely be provided by a single agency and/or existing support from family, friends and the community.

It is these Universal Services who are best placed to ensure children and families have access to the Early Help Offer. The needs of the child/young person are appropriately met within this framework.

### **Level 2 – Children in need of Early Help**

These children can be defined as needing some additional support without which they would be at risk of not meeting their full potential.

Their identified needs may relate to the health, education or social development, and are likely to be short term needs. If ignored these issues may develop into more worrying concerns for the child.

In addition to the Whole Family Assessment, specific local tools and pathways should be used where there are concerns about possible harm to the child.

Early Help aims to provide a multi-agency response when a single agency is not able to progress and help the child and their family.

The existing single agency or multi-agency team should work with the family and each other to complete a Whole Family Assessment and Action Plan.

At this stage a lead professional/practitioner should be identified who can build a relationship with the whole family and ensure the whole family's needs are met and actions progressed.

Consent must be sought to access services and share information with others. Any information sharing between agencies without consent must be clear as to its legal basis.

Ensure privacy information is shared with the family and a consent form completed.

### **Level 3 – Targeted Early Help**

This level applies to those children identified as requiring targeted support and who meet at least 2 of the 6 Strengthening Families criteria in the Whole Family Assessment. It is likely that for those children their needs and care are compromised.

These children will be those who are vulnerable to harm or experiencing adversity. In addition to the Whole Family Assessment, specific local tools and pathways should be used where there are concerns about possible harm to the child.

These children are potentially at risk of developing acute/complex needs if they do not receive targeted early help.

If a child continues to have unmet needs which cannot be met by Universal or Early Help support, then the existing single agency or multi-agency team should work with the family and each other to review the Whole Family Assessment and Action Plan and follow the Request for Intervention Pathway to request more intensive family support from a Targeted Early Help Family Support Worker.

Consent must be sought to access services and share information with others. Any information sharing between agencies without consent must be clear as to its legal basis.

Ensure privacy information is shared with the family and a consent form completed.

### **Level 4 – Complex Significant Needs**

These are children whose needs and care at the present time are likely to be significantly compromised and/or they are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm and so who require intervention from Shropshire Council Children's Social Care.

An immediate referral to Compass should be made for assessment under Section 17 or Section 47 of the Children Act 1989.

Specific local tools and pathways and the Shropshire Threshold Matrix should be used to support their referral and help practitioners to assess significant harm to the child.

### **Child in Need**

Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 states that a child shall be considered in need if:

- They are unlikely to achieve, maintain or have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision of services by a local authority.
- Their health and development is likely to be significantly impaired, or further impaired, without the provision of such services

and/or

- They are disabled.



Consent must be sought to access services and share information with others. Any information sharing between agencies without consent must be clear as to its legal basis.

Ensure privacy information is shared with the family and a consent form completed.

### Child Protection

Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 states that the authority shall make necessary enquiries to enable them to decide whether they should take action to safeguard or promote the child's welfare where there is reasonable cause to suspect a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.

Where it is suspected that a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm; referring practitioners must inform parents or carers that they are making a referral to Compass, and seek consent unless to do so may:

- Place the child at increased risk of significant harm; or
- Place any other person at risk of injury; or
- Obstruct or interfere with any potential Police investigation; or
- Lead to unjustified delay in making enquiries about allegations of significant harm.

Guidance for assessment practice can be found on page 13 of the Shropshire Threshold document.

(Taken from: Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership Multi-agency Guidance on Threshold Criteria to help support Children, Young People and their Families in Shropshire 2021: [Threshold Document](#) )

## **2.4 Partnership with families**

A copy of this policy is made available to all parents prior to their child joining our nursery as well as details of the complaints procedure. In general, any concerns will be discussed with parents and we will offer support. All conversations, whatever the outcome, will be recorded appropriately to show that they took place, identify what was agreed and evaluate how effectively they enabled needs to be met. In this way quality conversations can demonstrate their impact on successful practice, including improvements in decision making and joint working. Conversations should continue to inform the on-going planning and reviewing.

Practitioners working with families at a Universal, Early Help or Targeted or Child in Need level will need to obtain the consent of the family before any information is held or shared with other agencies. Any information sharing between agencies without consent must be clear as to its legal basis.

If the practitioner does not gain the family's consent and in future has ongoing concerns, they should refer to local tools and pathways available via [West Midlands Child Protection Procedures](#) and consider contacting Compass for advice and guidance. Except for child protection matters, referrals to Compass cannot be accepted without parents having been consulted first.

Consent is not required for child protection referrals where it is suspected that a child may be suffering or be at risk of suffering significant harm; however, the referring practitioner, would need to inform parents or carers that they are making a referral, unless to do so may:

- Place the child at increased risk of Significant Harm; or
- Place any other person at risk of injury; or
- Obstruct or interfere with any potential Police investigation; or
- Lead to unjustified delay in making enquiries about allegations of significant harm.

The child's interest must be the overriding consideration in making such decisions. Decisions should be recorded. If consent is withheld by the parent:

- If it is felt that the child's needs can be met through Early Help, then discussion with the family should take place about the completion of a Whole Family Assessment and provision of services through an Early Help Plan. Early help consultations are available from the Early Help Advisors for support in managing these situations.
- For another agency familiar with the child and family to make the approach about information sharing to the family.
- No Whole Family Assessment should take place. Other specific local tools and pathways available via [West Midlands Child Protection Procedures](#) should be used where there are concerns about possible harm to the child. The rationale for this decision will be recorded on the concerns form.
- The combination of the concerns and the refusal to consent to enquiries being made may result in the concerns being defined as child protection concerns. In this case, information sharing may proceed without parental consent. The consultation and the decision to proceed without consent must be clearly recorded on the case file.

**If a child has been injured or is in imminent danger of being injured then we will contact the emergency services, medical or police, immediately on 999.**

When making a level 4 referral to Compass we will ensure we have a record of all details required detailed on a [Shropshire Multi-Agency Referral Form](#)

## **2.5 Specific legal duties**

Legislation has recognised and criminalised the following types of abuse and placed duties on education settings to report offences to the authorities:

- **Radicalisation and the Prevent Duty**

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy – this promotes the values of:

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

Our nursery promotes these values to ensure that children build resilience.- See Appendix C

If a member of staff has a concern about a child/s they should follow the nursery's normal safeguarding procedures, including discussing with the school's/settings designated safeguarding lead as set out in the Child Protection/safeguarding policy.

The designated lead should refer to the [Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership Child Exploitation Practice Guidance and Protocol](#) (Preventing Terrorism)

Prevent referrals should be sent to [ctu\\_gateway@westmidlands.police.uk](mailto:ctu_gateway@westmidlands.police.uk)

If uncertain about whether threshold is met for a Prevent referral, contact West Mercia Police on 01386 591821 for a consultation

For assistance with completion of a Prevent referral form, contact the West Midlands Prevent hub 0121 251 0241.

Prevent Engagement Officer, West Mercia Police is DC Holly Aungiers – 01386 591815

In line with our statutory duty as set out in The Prevent Duty Statutory Guidance we will take action to protect children from harm and be alert to harmful behaviour by other adults in a child's life. [Prevent Duty Statutory Guidance point 60]

Domestic abuse can encompass a wide range of behaviours and may be a single incident or a pattern of incidents. That abuse can be, but is not limited to, psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional. It can take place between individuals aged 16 years and over who have a "personal connection" (as defined by the Domestic Abuse Act 2021).

So called "honour"-based abuse (including female genital mutilation (below) and forced marriage) may also be considered as domestic abuse.

Children can be victims of domestic abuse. They may see, hear, or experience the effects of abuse at home and/or suffer domestic abuse in their own intimate relationships (teenage relationship abuse). All of which can have a detrimental and long-term impact on their health, well-being, development, and ability to learn.

We will seek support for victims and their children by following:

- [Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership Domestic Abuse Pathway.](#)
- [The right to choose: government guidance on forced marriage - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Depending on the level of risk, we may or may not consult parents before contacting Compass.

This nursery takes part in Operation Encompass, which is being run locally in partnership with Shropshire Council and West Mercia Police.

Operation Encompass is a process whereby the police and the council will inform a member of staff if a child or young person has experienced any domestic abuse incident. This will be done prior to the start of the day. Information sharing between professional agencies allows staff to provide emotional and practical support to their pupils experiencing domestic abuse.

The sharing of details under Operation Encompass is permitted under Statutory Safeguarding Legislation and in respect of local authority schools under the Crime and Disorder Act (for the prevention of crime) and doing so without the child's or parent's consent is permissible under both pieces of legislation and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

For more information on Operation Encompass, please visit: <https://www.operationencompass.org/>

- **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**

Whilst all staff should speak to the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) about any concerns about female genital mutilation (FGM), there is a specific legal duty on teachers. If a teacher, during their work in the profession, discovers that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under the age of 18, the teacher must personally report this to the police.

All teachers will be aware of and adhere to the Government Guidance on [Mandatory reporting of female genital mutilation: procedural information](#)

For more information about FGM, please refer to <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/female-genital-mutilation-leaflet>

Parental consent may not be sought if this may put the girl at increased risk.

## 2.6 Abuse, Neglect and specific safeguarding issues

To ensure that our children and young people are protected from harm, we need to understand what types of behaviour constitute abuse and neglect.

Abuse is defined in statutory guidance (Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022) as:

- A form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm.
- Harm can include ill treatment that is not physical as well as the impact of witnessing ill treatment of others. This can be particularly relevant, for example, in relation to the impact on children of all forms of domestic abuse.
- Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others.
- Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse.
- Children may be abused by an adult or by another child or children.

All staff should be aware that safeguarding incidents and/behaviours can be associated with factors outside the nursery and/or can occur between children outside of these environments. All staff, but especially the DSL and deputy DSLs should consider whether children are at risk of abuse and exploitation in situations outside of their families. Extra-familial harms take a variety of different forms and children can be vulnerable to multiple harms (but not limited to) sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, radicalisation and serious youth violence. Please see link: [Contextual Safeguarding](#)

Staff are made aware of the four main categories of abuse and other specific forms of abuse and safeguarding issues (such as those outlined in the table below) through child protection training, reading up to date guidance such as Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022, [Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage stated in Section 3 – The Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements](#) and accessing multi-agency procedures at <http://www.safeguardingshropshireschildren.org.uk/>

Staff should exercise professional curiosity to be able to identify children who may need help or protection.

This nursery ensures that the DSL is continually updated in all areas below. They are familiar with the referral pathways and specific toolkits and guidance on [West Midlands Child Protection Procedures](#), and training available on the [Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership](#) websites.

All staff should have an awareness of safeguarding issues that can put children at risk of harm. Behaviours linked to issues such as drug taking and or alcohol misuse, deliberately missing education, serious violence (including that linked to county lines), and consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nude images and/or videos ([UKCIS](#)) can be signs that children are at risk.

Expert and professional organisations are best placed to provide up-to-date guidance and practical support on specific safeguarding issues. For example, information for schools, colleges and early years settings can be found on the TES, MindEd and the NSPCC websites.

Staff can access government guidance as required on the issues listed below via [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022](#), [West Midlands Child Protection Procedures](#) and other government websites as well as through continuing professional development.

**Table:**

Specific Forms of Abuse	Safeguarding Issues

<p><u>Four main categories</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emotional Abuse</li> <li>• Physical Abuse</li> <li>• Neglect</li> <li>• Sexual abuse and exploitation (including sexual violence and sexual harassment between children)</li> </ul> <p><u>Other types of abuse</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abuse motivated by Hate (hate related incidents will be reported to Shropshire Council using the <a href="#">Hate related Incident Reporting Form</a>)</li> <li>• Abuse linked to faith or belief</li> <li>• Child abduction and community safety incidents</li> <li>• Child-on-child abuse (see below)</li> <li>• Child exploitation (including criminal and sexual exploitation)</li> <li>• Cybercrime (including cyberbullying)</li> <li>• Domestic Abuse</li> <li>• Gender based abuse/violence against women and girls</li> <li>• Fabricated or induced illness</li> <li>• Modern Slavery (including Trafficking)</li> <li>• Online abuse</li> <li>• Radicalisation</li> <li>• So-called honour-based abuse (including Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child missing from education, home or care</li> <li>• Children and the court system</li> <li>• Children with family members in prison</li> <li>• Drug and/or alcohol use (parental or child)</li> <li>• Extremism</li> <li>• Health and Wellbeing (parental or child). Includes medical conditions, physical health, mental health.</li> <li>• Homelessness</li> <li>• Private fostering arrangements</li> <li>• Serious Violence</li> </ul>
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## Trauma and Mental Health

Where children have suffered abuse and neglect, or other potentially traumatic adverse childhood experiences, this can have a lasting impact throughout childhood, adolescence and into adulthood. Staff should be aware of how these children's experiences, can impact on their physical and mental health, behaviour, and education.

If staff have a mental health concern about a child that is also a safeguarding concern, immediate action should be taken, following the child protection policy, and speaking to the designated safeguarding lead or a deputy.

## Child on child abuse

Staff should recognise that children can abuse other children, and that it can happen both inside and outside of the nursery; at home or someone else's home, in public spaces and online.

It can take place in spaces which are supervised or unsupervised. Within a school context, for example, child-on-child abuse might take place in spaces such as toilets, the playground, corridors and when children are walking home. All staff should understand, that even if there are no reports in

their schools or colleges, it does not mean it is not happening, it may be the case that it is just not being reported.

Examples of child-on-child abuse are listed below.

At Little Poppets we understand that even if there are no reports of child-on-child abuse, that such abuse may still be taking place. We want to create a safe environment for children that does not accept abusive behaviour and encourages children to report to staff when they witness or experience it.

As such, staff will take a zero-tolerance approach to abuse. They will challenge inappropriate behaviours between children that are abusive in nature. They should not downplay abusive behaviour by children towards other children, such as passing it off as “banter” or “part of growing up”.

Children who experience or witness child on child abuse will have any concerns they raise taken seriously. Children experiencing, causing or who witness child-on-child abuse will be supported and protected to ensure their needs are met and they are effectively safeguarded, in accordance with this policy.

Staff are aware that safeguarding issues can manifest themselves via child-on-child abuse. This is most likely to include, but may not be limited to:

- bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying);
- Abuse in personal intimate relationships between children (sometimes known as ‘teenage relationship abuse’)
- physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm
- sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault
- Sexual harassment such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment
- Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent such as forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party
- Consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or videos (also known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery)
- Upskirting, which typically involves taking a picture under a person’s clothing without their permission, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress, or alarm, and
- Initiation/hazing type violence and rituals (this could include activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group and may also include an online element).

All staff should read and be familiar with:

- Part 5 of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022: Child-on-child sexual violence and sexual harassment.
- [Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: how to respond to an incident \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/641666/child-on-child-sexual-violence-and-sexual-harassment.pdf)

Little Poppets will ensure that children are taught about key subjects to minimise the risk of child-on-child abuse in an age appropriate manner as outlined in the Prevention of Curriculum section in this policy.

If staff have any concerns regarding child-on-child abuse, they should speak to their designated safeguarding lead (or deputy).

The nursery would respond to an incident of **child-on-child** abuse by recording the incident on a Concern Reporting Form (Appendix E).

### **Child-on-child sexual violence and sexual harassment**



Where there are concerns of child-on-child sexual violence or sexual harassment, the nursery will follow the below pieces of Government Guidance as set out in:

- Part 5 of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022: Child-on-child sexual violence and sexual harassment.
- [Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sharing-nudes-and-semi-nudes-advice-for-education-settings-working-with-children-and-young-people)
- [Searching, screening and confiscation at school - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/searching-screening-and-confiscation-at-school)

In summary the process and procedures for managing a sexual violence or sexual harassment incident are:

**Whole Nursery approach:**

*Training for staff on how to report incidents*

*Training on how to manage reports*

**Responding to a report:**

*Victims are reassured, supported and kept safe*

*Record the concern*

*Inform the DSL if not involved in the initial report.*

**Risk Assessment:**

*Risk assessment for victim*

*Risk assessment for alleged perpetrator*

*Risk assessment for all other children involved*

*Initial consideration of children sharing a classroom and/or having direct contact in nursery*

**Support**

*Support for victim and alleged perpetrator*

Our Nursery will monitor where there are any patterns of child-on-child abuse by recording incidents, dates, times and children involved and will determine necessary support and intervention.

It is vital that staff at Little Poppets Nursery understand that the child who is perpetrating the abuse may also be risk of harm. Staff should make every effort to ensure that the child who is perpetrating the abuse is also treated as a potential victim and undertake assessments to conclude this. Sensitive work must be undertaken with the child who is perpetrating, by helping them to understand the nature of their behaviour and the effect it has on others may prevent abuse.

Staff must be able to use their professional judgement in identifying when what may be perceived as “normal developmental childhood behaviour” becomes abusive, dangerous and harmful to others. Designated leads may need to consult with the SSCP Threshold document to help with their decision making.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead has attended Brook Traffic Light Training which will support in identifying developmentally typical behaviours or those that may be referred to as problematic or harmful.

Children do not always feel able to speak out about their experience of child-on-child sexual abuse. They may be afraid of:

- being considered a ‘snitch’
- getting in trouble themselves
- how they will be perceived by others

- teachers or adults not being discrete
- their parents being informed.

A helpline was launched by the NSPCC on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to support potential victims of sexual harassment and abuse. Run by the NSPCC it aims to provide advice and support to both children and adults who are victims of abuse in school. It will also include how to contact the police to report crimes. The advice line is also available to support professionals and parents. **NSPCC helpline number is 0800 136 663.**

This dedicated helpline will offer support to:

- all children and young people making current and non-recent disclosures of abuse
- any children or young people who want to talk about being involved or witnessing any incidents
- any adults who have experienced non-recent abuse
- parents and carers who have any concerns about their own or other children
- parents and carers who have any concerns about their own or other children
- professionals who work in schools and need support on this or related issues.

## **2.7 Safeguarding children with special educational needs and disabilities**

It is recognised that children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) can face additional safeguarding challenges both online and offline. Additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in this group of children. These can include: assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury, relate to the child's impairment without further exploration; children with SEND can be disproportionately impacted by issues such as bullying, without necessarily showing outward signs; communication barriers; and/or cognitive understanding.

It is important, therefore, to be particularly sensitive to these issues when considering any aspect of the welfare and safety of such children, and to seek professional advice where necessary.

Any reports of abuse involving children with SEND will therefore require close liaison with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or deputy) and the SENCO (name) or the named person with oversight for SEN in a college.

We will consider extra pastoral support attention for children with SEND. (include how this will be provided and how you will ensure appropriate support for communication is in place)

There are many reasons why we want young children to have regular attendance at our setting. As well as supporting their learning and development, we want to try to make sure that children are kept safe, their wellbeing is promoted, and they do not miss out on their entitlements and opportunities. In a small minority of cases, good attendance practice may also lead to the earlier identification of more serious concerns for a child or family and may have a vital part to play in keeping a child or other family members safe from harm.

In our nursery, we have procedures for recording and following up any unexplained non-attendance and know how to respond to different problems and where to access advice, support or whom to alert if concerns arise.

## **2.8 Safeguarding children who are/have been Looked After**

Staff are aware the most common reason for children becoming looked after is because of abuse and/or neglect. Appropriate staff have the information they need in relation to a child's looked after legal status (whether they are looked after under voluntary arrangements with consent of parents or on an interim or full care order) and contact arrangements with birth parents or those with parental responsibility. Appropriate staff members also have information about the child's care arrangements



and the levels of authority delegated to the carer by the authority looking after him/her. The designated safeguarding lead has details of the child's social worker and the name of the virtual school head in the authority that looks after the child.

The designated safeguarding lead should have details of the child's social worker and the name of the virtual head teacher. The designated safeguarding lead should work closely with the designated teacher.

## 2.9 Injuries

At the beginning of each session or school day parents are requested to notify us of any accidents, incidents or injuries which may affect their child before leaving him/her at nursery. A note will be made of any existing injuries and how the injury was received will be recorded. A body map may be used to indicate any marks/bruises (Refer to body map in [Multi-agency referral form \(MARF\)](#))

Any serious injury occurring in nursery e.g. broken bone, is reported to Health and Safety Executive (HSE) via RIDDOR. This is also reported to Ofsted as soon as reasonably practicable or within 14 days (see **Appendix D**).

## 2.10 Safe use of ICT and mobile phones

It is essential that children are safeguarded from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material. At Little Poppets we ensure that there are appropriate filters and appropriate monitoring systems in place. We have an effective whole nursery approach to online safety that empowers us as a nursery, to protect and educate pupils, students, our staff in their use of technology and establishes mechanisms to identify, intervene in, and escalate any concerns where appropriate.

The breadth of issues classified within online safety is considerable, but can be categorised into four areas of risk:

- **content:** being exposed to illegal, inappropriate, or harmful content, for example: pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism, radicalisation, and extremism.
- **contact:** being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; for example: peer to peer pressure, commercial advertising and adults posing as children or young adults with the intention to groom or exploit them for sexual, criminal, financial or other purposes.
- **conduct:** online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm; for example, making, sending and receiving explicit images (e.g. consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes and/or pornography, sharing other explicit images and online bullying, and
- **commerce:** - risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and or financial scams. If you feel your pupils, students or staff are at risk, please report it to the Anti-Phishing Working Group (<https://apwg.org/>).

**Training** – All Staff undergo regular updates on safeguarding training, including online safety and the requirement to ensure children are taught about safeguarding, including online safety, that safeguarding training for staff, including online safety training, is integrated, aligned and considered as part of the whole nursery safeguarding approach and wider staff training and curriculum planning such as updates and quizzes held at staff meetings.

The use of mobile phones and other electronic devices such as computers, tablets, and game devices are commonplace. However, as a society, we are beginning to recognise that although these devices have brought great benefit, we also need to ensure that we help children to understand there are dangers and how to keep themselves safe. This includes:

- Keeping personal details secure

- Understanding that not all content is appropriate, truthful or legal
- What to do if they do accidentally access inappropriate or illegal content
- What to do if they are upset by something they receive
- What to do if they are going to physically meet someone they have met on-line

Appropriate use of mobile phones is essential at Little Poppets.

Staff can use their personal mobile phones (including smart watches) during their break times in designated areas. During working hours, they must be kept out of the reach of children and parents in personal lockers. All staff are made aware of their duty to follow this procedure, and to challenge anyone not adhering to it.

Visitors to the setting (including parents) are asked to leave mobile phones in the office or to switch them off whilst in the building.

We believe that photographs validate children's experiences and achievements and are a valuable way of recording milestones in a child's life. Parental permission for the different ways in which we use photographs is gained as part of the initial registration. We take a mixture of photos that reflect the nursery's environment, sometimes this will be when children are engrossed in an activity either on their own or with their peers. To safeguard children and adults and to maintain privacy, cameras are not to be used during intimate care situations by adults or children.

To safeguard children and practitioners online, providers will find it helpful to refer to 'Safeguarding children and protecting professionals in early years settings: online safety considerations at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-and-protecting-professionals-in-early-years-settings-online-safety-considerations>.

Through induction, staff and volunteers are made aware of 'acceptable use of technology' both at home and in the workplace. If any staff or volunteers breach this, then we will take disciplinary action which may result in a referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service.

## **2.11 Prevention in the Curriculum**

Our nursery recognises the importance of teaching our children to develop their awareness of behaviour that is unacceptable towards them and others, and how they can help keep themselves and others safe. We use a wide range of age appropriate stories to highlight topics for further discussion and use small circle time opportunities to address issues in an appropriate age related manner that children can recognise and understand.

Nursery will ensure that the following areas are covered within the curriculum to prevent the risk of harm to our children and others:

- Online Safety
- healthy and respectful relationships
- boundaries and consent
- stereotyping, prejudice and equality
- body confidence and self-esteem

## **2.12 Taking action**

The following section will be followed by all staff in the nursery.

It is vital that staff working with children in our nursery build trusted relationships with them. This means listening to and supporting them in a way which meets their needs in our everyday work. This will help our children to feel reassured, safe and able to communicate with us more easily.

Key points to remember for taking action are:

- in an emergency take the action necessary to protect the child, for example, call 999
- report your concern to the DSL immediately
- if the DSL is not able to be contacted ensure action is taken to report the concern to children's social care
- do not start your own investigation
- share information on a need-to-know basis only – do not discuss the issue with colleagues, friends or family
- complete a record of concern (**Appendix E**)
- seek support for yourself if you are distressed.

### **If you suspect a child is at risk of harm**

There will be occasions when you suspect that a child may be at serious risk, but you have no 'real' evidence. The child's behaviour may have changed, or you may have noticed other physical but inconclusive signs.

Children may not feel ready or know how to tell us that they are being abused, exploited, or neglected, and/or they may not recognise their experiences as harmful. For example, children may feel embarrassed, humiliated, or are being threatened. This could also be due to their vulnerability, experiences, individual characteristics or needs.

In these circumstances, we use our professional curiosity and the trusted relationship we have with them to try to, give the child the opportunity to talk. The signs we have noticed may be due to a variety of factors and it is fine to ask the child if they are alright or if we can help in any way.

The welfare concern form (see **Appendix E**) is used to record these early concerns. If the child does begin to reveal that they are being harmed, we will follow the advice in the section below 'If a child discloses information to you'.

If, following our conversation, we remain concerned, we will discuss your concerns with the designated person.

If staff have a mental health concern about a child that is also a safeguarding concern, immediate action will be taken, following the procedures set out in this policy and by speaking with the DSL.

### **If a child tells us that they've been abused**

We will refer to Shropshire [Children Reporting Concern guidance](#)

It takes a lot of courage for a child to tell someone that they are being neglected and or abused. They may feel ashamed, particularly if the abuse is sexual, their abuser may have threatened what will happen if they tell, they may have lost all trust in adults, or they may believe, or have been told, that the abuse is their own fault.

If a child talks to us about any risks to their safety or wellbeing we will need to let them know that we must pass the information on – we are not allowed to keep secrets. The point at which we do this is a matter for professional judgement. If we jump in immediately the child may think that we do not want to listen, if we leave it till the very end of the conversation, the child may feel that you have misled them into revealing more than they would have otherwise. Telling a child that we must pass information on might mean that the child being worried about or choosing not to talk to us. We will keep this in mind at all times. We will offer them reassurance and explanations that we want to help them to be safe (making sure we do not make any promises about what will happen. We will be honest and say if we do not know.

All staff should be able to reassure children who tell them about abuse that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe. A child will never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting abuse, sexual violence or sexual harassment. Nor should a child ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report or choosing not to talk to staff.

### **During your conversation with the child:**

Allow them to speak freely.

- Remain calm and do not overreact – the child may stop talking if they feel they are upsetting you.
- Give reassuring nods or words of comfort – ‘I’m so sorry this has happened’, ‘I want to help’, ‘this isn’t your fault’, ‘You are doing the right thing in talking to me’.
- Do not be afraid of silences – remember how hard this must be for the child.
- Under no circumstances ask investigative questions – such as how many times this has happened, whether it happens to siblings too, or what does the child’s mother think about all this.
- At an appropriate time tell the child that to help them you must pass the information on.
- Do not automatically offer any physical touch as comfort. It may be anything but comforting to a child who has been abused.
- Avoid admonishing the child for not disclosing earlier. Saying ‘I do wish you had told me about this when it started’ or ‘I can’t believe what I’m hearing’ may be your way of being supportive but the child may interpret it that they have done something wrong.
- Tell the child what will happen next. The child may agree to go with you to see the designated person. Otherwise let them know that someone will come to see them before the end of the day.
- Report verbally to the designated person.
- Write up your conversation as soon as possible on the record of concern form and hand it to the designated person.
- Seek support if you feel distressed.

Please refer to:

- Section 2.16 if you have a safeguarding concern or an allegation about another staff member.
- Section 2.17 Whistleblowing if you have concerns about safeguarding practices within the school or college.

### **2.13 Managing allegations of abuse made against staff (this includes apprentices & supply staff), students or volunteers (see Appendix F)**

As part of our whole Nursery approach to safeguarding, our nursery will ensure that we promote an open and transparent culture in which all concerns about all adults working in or on behalf of the nursery (including support teachers, volunteers and contractors) are dealt with promptly and appropriately.

There are two levels of allegation/concern:

1. Allegations that **may** meet the harms threshold
2. Allegation/concerns that **do not** meet the harms threshold – which may be referred to as ‘low level concerns’

Allegations which might indicate that a person would pose a risk of harm to children if they continue to work in regular or close contact with children in their present position, or in any capacity with children in a nursery, school or college, will be taken seriously. We have a duty to inform Ofsted of any serious allegations made against a person which suggests he or she has:

- behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
- possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; or
- behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she would pose a risk of harm to children; or
- behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children. This includes any behaviour that may have happened outside of nursery that might make an individual unsuitable to work with children (transferable risk).

We also have a duty of care towards our staff. We provide support for anyone facing an allegation and provide employees with a named contact if they are suspended. It is essential that any allegations of abuse made against members of staff or volunteers are dealt with very quickly, in a fair and consistent way that provides effective protection for the child and at the same time supports the person who is the subject of the allegation.

## Staff

If staff have safeguarding concerns or an allegation is made about another member of staff (including supply staff, volunteers, and contractors) **posing a risk of harm to children**, then:

- this should be referred to the Manager or Deputy Manager
- where there are concerns/allegations about the manager, this should be referred to the deputy manager, and
- in the event of concerns/allegations about the manager, where the manager is also the sole proprietor, or a situation where there is a conflict of interest in reporting the matter to the manager or deputy manager, this should be reported directly to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). Please refer to [Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership Local Authority Designated Officer/Managing Allegations](#).

If staff have a safeguarding concern or an allegation about another member of staff (including supply staff, volunteers or contractors) that does not meet the harm threshold, then this should be shared and recorded as a low- level concern.

Where our nursery identify a child has been harmed, that there may be an immediate risk of harm to a child or if the situation is an emergency, they should contact children's social care and as appropriate the police immediately in line with [Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership Local Authority Designated Officer/Managing Allegations](#). There are two aspects to consider when an allegation is made:

- Looking after the welfare of the child - the designated safeguarding lead is responsible for ensuring that the child is not at risk and referring cases of suspected abuse to the local authority children's social care in line with the Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership Procedures
- Investigating and supporting the person subject to the allegation - the case manager should discuss with the LADO, the nature, content and context of the allegation, and agree a course of action.

The LADO may ask for additional information, such as previous history, whether the child or their family have made similar allegations previously and the individual's current contact with children. There may be situations when the LADO will want to involve the police immediately, for example if

the person is deemed to be an immediate risk to children or there is evidence of a possible criminal offence.

The initial sharing of information and evaluation may lead to a decision that no further action is to be taken regarding the individual facing the allegation or concern; in which case, this decision and a justification for it will be recorded by both the Owner/Registered person and the LADO, and agreement reached on what information should be put in writing to the individuals concerned and by whom. The Registered Person will then consider with the LADO what action should follow both in respect of the individual and those who made the initial allegation.

If further action is required, we will follow the advice of the LADO and co-operate with any investigations. We will follow instructions about what can be disclosed to the accused and whether he/she should be suspended whilst further investigations take place. This is not an indication of admission that the alleged incident has taken place but is to protect the staff as well as children and families throughout the process. Clear advice will be given to workers on the process of investigation by other agencies. We will follow advice about how to inform families about the allegation.

In all cases, we will notify Ofsted as soon as reasonably practical within 14 days of the allegations first being made and inform them about what actions are being taken by completing the on-line form at: [https://ofstedonline.ofsted.gov.uk/ofsted/Ofsted\\_Early\\_Years\\_Notification.ofml](https://ofstedonline.ofsted.gov.uk/ofsted/Ofsted_Early_Years_Notification.ofml)

If the member of staff/volunteer is found to be a risk to children and vulnerable adults, the Disclosure & Barring Service will be notified. If an allegation is made against the Designated Safeguarding Lead the Registered Person will make the referral. If we are aware of the details of a child who has or may have been harmed by a member of staff or volunteer, we will contact Compass to make a referral to seek support for the child.

**There is a legal requirement for employers to make a referral to the DBS where they think that an individual has engaged in conduct that harmed (or is likely to harm) a child; or if a person otherwise poses a risk of harm to a child. [Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006](#)**

## **2.14 Whistleblowing**

Whistle blowing is a mechanism by which adults can voice their concerns in good faith, without fear of repercussion. Any behaviour by colleagues that raises concern regardless of source will be recorded and reported to the designated practitioner or appropriate agency.

## **2.15 Recruiting Staff**

We provide adequate and appropriate staffing resources to meet the needs of children. (More information can be found in our recruitment and retention policy).

Job adverts and application packs refer to our safeguarding policy and procedures.

Applicants for posts are clearly informed that positions are exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. We ensure that we meet our responsibilities under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.

Where applicants are rejected because of information that has been disclosed, we will inform the applicant about their right to know and to challenge incorrect information.

We comply with the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements in the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) [2021](#) and the Compulsory Childcare Register,

## **2.16 Staff Supervision (including students and volunteers)**

To ensure that all staff are alert to any issues for concern, staff receive regular training and updates in safeguarding and child protection through a range of training and supervision activities. This

includes both formal and informal supervision, annual appraisals, staff meetings and access to SSCP approved training. Individual supervision offers staff an opportunity to receive coaching to improve their practice with children and address any issues resulting in poor performance. Individual supervision also provides a safe space in which to raise any concerns they may have about the conduct of other adults connected with the setting.

Staff supervision is also used to ensure that all staff remain suitable to work with children. If a member of staff is taking medication which may affect their ability to care for children, the staff member should seek medical advice. The setting will ensure that staff members only work directly with children if medical advice confirms that the medication is unlikely to impair that staff member's ability to look after children properly.

Staff are also required to disclose any information, which may lead to their disqualification as outlined in The Statutory Framework for the EYFS 2021 3.14-3.18 and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021.

## 2.17 Resolution of professional disagreements

When practitioners are working together in the complex business of safeguarding children there will inevitably be occasions when there are professional differences of opinion or concerns about practice decisions, actions or lack of actions to a referral, assessment or the progress of child's plan. In these circumstances practitioners have a duty to take action to address professional disagreements as soon as they arise in a way that is appropriate and proportionate

Examples of case-specific professional disagreements include:

- When there is disagreement about the response to a referral made by one agency to another agency or service (e.g. decision making).
- When there is disagreement about the outcome of an assessment.
- When there is serious concern about the implementation of a child's Plan and disagreement about how this should be addressed (e.g. agreed actions not being followed through).
- When there is serious concern about the effectiveness of a child's Plan in bringing about the necessary changes and disagreement about how this should be addressed (e.g. drift/delay).
- When there is disagreement over the sharing of information in a case.

Designated Safeguarding Leads and managers will consult with the procedures for resolving professional disagreements by accessing it on the [West Midlands Child Protection Procedures website](#) . Designated Safeguarding Leads will record any actions taken and outcomes on file.

Signature:	Date Policy adopted:
Position	Review Date:

# Appendix A

## Early Years

### The role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead

The Registered Person should ensure an appropriate practitioner must be designated to take lead responsibility for safeguarding children as the designated safeguarding lead.

The designated safeguarding lead should take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection (including online safety). This should be explicit in the role holder's job description.

This person should have the appropriate status and authority within the setting to carry out the duties of the post. The role of the designated safeguarding lead carries a significant level of responsibility, and they should be given the additional time, funding, training, resources and support they need to carry out the role effectively.

Their additional responsibilities include providing advice and support to other staff on child welfare, safeguarding and child protection matters, taking part in strategy discussions and interagency meetings, and/or supporting other staff to do so, and to contributing to the assessment of children.

#### Deputy designated safeguarding leads

It is a matter for individual settings as to whether they choose to have one or more deputy designated safeguarding leads. Any deputies should be trained to the same standard as the designated safeguarding lead and the role should be explicit in their job description.

Whilst the activities of the designated safeguarding lead can be delegated to appropriately trained deputies, the ultimate lead responsibility for child protection, as set out above, remains with the designated safeguarding lead, this lead responsibility should not be delegated.

#### Availability

There must be a designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy) always be available for staff in the setting to discuss any safeguarding concerns.

Whilst generally speaking the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) would be expected to be available in person, it is a matter for individual setting, working with the designated safeguarding lead, to define what "available" means and whether in exceptional circumstances availability via phone and or Skype or other such media is acceptable.

It is a matter for the setting and the designated safeguarding lead to arrange adequate and appropriate cover arrangements for any out of hours/out of term activities.

#### Manage referrals

The designated safeguarding lead is expected to refer cases:

- of suspected abuse and neglect to the local authority children's social care as required and support staff who make referrals to local authority children's social care;
- to the Channel programme where there is a radicalisation concern as required and support staff who make referrals to the Channel programme;



- where a person is dismissed or left due to risk/harm to a child to the Disclosure and Barring Service as required; and
- where a crime may have been committed to the Police as required. NPCC - When to call the police should help understand when to consider calling the police and what to expect when working with the police.

## **Working with others**

The designated safeguarding lead is expected to:

- act as a source of support, advice and expertise for all staff;
- act as a point of contact with the safeguarding partners;
- liaise with the headteacher or principal to inform him or her of issues- especially ongoing enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and police investigations;
- as required, liaise with the “case manager” (as per Part four) and the local authority designated officer(s) (LADO) for child protection concerns in cases which concern a staff member;
- liaise with staff (especially special educational needs coordinators (SENCOs), or the named person with oversight for SEN in a setting) on matters of safety and safeguarding and welfare (including online and digital safety) and when deciding whether to make a referral by liaising with relevant agencies so that children’s needs are considered holistically;
- promote supportive engagement with parents and/or carers in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, including where families may be facing challenging circumstances;
- work with the Registered Person/Body and relevant senior staff, taking lead responsibility for promoting educational outcomes by knowing the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that children in need are experiencing, or have experienced, and identifying the impact that these issues might be having on children’s attendance, engagement and achievement at the setting. This includes:
- ensure that the setting knows who its cohort of children who have or have had a social worker are, understanding their academic progress and attainment, and maintaining a culture of high aspirations for this cohort; and,
- support staff to provide additional academic support or reasonable adjustments to help children who have or have had a social worker reach their potential, recognising that even when statutory social care intervention has ended, there is still a lasting impact on children’s educational outcomes.

## **Information sharing and managing the child protection file**

The designated safeguarding lead is responsible for ensuring that child protection files are kept up to date. Information should be kept confidential and stored securely. It is good practice to keep concerns and referrals in a separate child protection file for each child.

Records should include:

- a clear and comprehensive summary of the concern;
- details of how the concern was followed up and resolved;
- a note of any action taken, decisions reached and the outcome.

They should ensure the file is only accessed by those who need to see it and where the file or content within it is shared, this happens in line with information sharing guidance.

Where children leave the setting the designated safeguarding lead should ensure their child protection file is transferred to the new setting/school as soon as possible. This should be transferred separately from any other files on the child being shared, ensuring secure transit, and confirmation of receipt should be obtained.

Receiving settings/schools should ensure key staff such as designated safeguarding leads and SENCOs, are aware as required. Lack of information about their circumstances can impact on the child's safety, welfare and educational outcomes. In addition to the child protection file, the designated safeguarding lead should also consider if it would be appropriate to share any additional information with the new setting/school in advance of a child leaving to help them put in place the right support to safeguard this child and to help the child thrive in the next setting/school. For example, information that would allow the new setting/school to continue supporting children who have had a social worker and been victims of abuse and have that support in place for when the child arrives.

## **Raising Awareness**

The designated safeguarding lead should:

- ensure each member of staff has access to, and understands, the setting's child protection policy and procedures, especially new and part-time staff;
- ensure the setting's child protection policy is reviewed annually (as a minimum) and the procedures and implementation are updated and reviewed regularly, and work with the Registered Person/Body regarding this;
- ensure the child protection policy is available publicly and parents know referrals about suspected abuse or neglect may be made and the role of the setting in this;
- link with the safeguarding partner arrangements to make sure staff are aware of any training opportunities and the latest local policies, procedures and guidance and required audit processes from the Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership (SSCP).
- help promote educational outcomes by sharing the information about the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that children who have or have had a social worker are experiencing with appropriate staff.

## **Training, knowledge and skills**

The designated safeguarding lead (and any deputies) should undergo training to provide them with the knowledge and skills required to carry out the role.

The designated safeguarding lead should undertake Prevent awareness training. Training should provide designated safeguarding leads with a good understanding of their own role, how to identify, understand and respond to specific needs that can increase the vulnerability of children, as well as specific harms that can put children at risk, and the processes, procedures and responsibilities of other agencies, particularly children's social care, so they:

- understand the assessment process for providing early help and statutory intervention, including local criteria for action and local authority children's social care referral arrangements;
- have a working knowledge of how local authorities conduct a child protection case conference and a child protection review conference and be able to attend and contribute to these effectively when required to do so;

- understand the importance of the role the designated safeguarding lead has in providing information and support to children social care in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of children;
- understand the lasting impact that adversity and trauma can have, including on children's behaviour, mental health and wellbeing, and what is needed in responding to this in promoting educational outcomes;
- are alert to the specific needs of children in need, those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), those with relevant health conditions and young carers;
- understand the importance of information sharing, both within the setting, and with the safeguarding partners, other agencies, organisations and practitioners;
- understand and support the setting with regards to the requirements of the Prevent duty and can provide advice and support to staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation;
- can understand the unique risks associated with online safety and be confident that they have the relevant knowledge and up to date capability required to keep children safe;
- can recognise the additional risks that children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) face online, for example, from online bullying, grooming and radicalisation and are confident they have the capability to support children with SEND to stay safe online;
- obtain access to resources and attend any relevant or refresher training courses; and,
- encourage a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings, among all staff, in any measures the setting may put in place to protect them.

In addition to the formal training set out above, their knowledge and skills should be refreshed (this might be via e-bulletins, meeting other designated safeguarding leads, or simply taking time to read and digest safeguarding developments) at regular intervals, as required, and at least annually, to allow them to understand and keep up with any developments relevant to their role.

### **Providing support to staff**

Training should support the designated safeguarding lead in developing expertise, so they can support and advise staff and help them feel confident on welfare, safeguarding and child protection matters. This includes specifically to:

- ensure that staff are supported during the referrals processes; and
- support staff to consider how safeguarding, welfare and educational outcomes are linked.

### **Listen to the voice of children and understand their views.**

It is important that children feel heard and understood. Therefore, designated safeguarding leads should be supported in developing knowledge and skills to:

- encourage a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings, among all staff, and in any measures the setting may put in place to protect them; and
- understand the difficulties that children may have in approaching staff about their circumstances and consider how to build trusted relationships which facilitate communication

## **Holding and sharing information**

The critical importance of recording, holding, using and sharing information effectively is set out in the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2021) Section 3 – The Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements 3.69 – 3.72 and the Information sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers 2018 and therefore the designated safeguarding lead should be equipped to:

- understand the importance of information sharing, both within the setting and with other setting's/school's on transfer, and with the safeguarding partners, other agencies, organisations and practitioners;
- understand relevant data protection legislation and regulations, especially the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR); and
- be able to keep detailed, accurate, secure written records of concerns and referrals and understand the purpose of this record-keeping

## Appendix B

### FILE TRANSFER RECORD AND RECEIPT



PART 1: To be completed by sending / transferring setting, school or college

NAME OF CHILD:	
DOB:	
NAME OF SCHOOL/SETTING SENDING CP FILE:	
ADDRESS OF SCHOOL/SETTING SENDING CP FILE:	
METHOD OF DELIVERY:	BY HAND    SECURE POST ELECTRONICALLY
DATE FILE SENT:	
NAME OF DSL TRANSFERRING FILE:	
NAME OF PERSON TRANSFERRING TO:	
SIGNATURE:	

PART 2: To be completed by receiving setting, school or college

NAME OF SCHOOL/SETTING RECEIVING FILE:	
ADDRESS OF SCHOOL/SETTING RECEIVING FILE:	
DATE RECEIVED:	
NAME OF PERSON RECEIVING FILE:	
DATE CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT SENT:	
SIGNATURE:	

**Receiving School:** Please complete Part 2 and return this form to the Designated Safeguarding Lead listed in Part 1 above. You are advised to keep a copy for your own reference.

## Appendix C

### Fundamental British Values in the Early Years

Democracy: making decisions together

As part of the focus on self-confidence and self-awareness as cited in Personal, Social and Emotional Development:

- Managers and staff can encourage children to see their role in the bigger picture, encouraging children to know their views count, value each other's views and values and talk about their feelings, for example when they do or do not need help. When appropriate demonstrate democracy in action, for example, children sharing views on what the theme of their role play area could be with a show of hands.
- Staff can support the decisions that children make and provide activities that involve turn taking, sharing and collaboration. Children should be given 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

As part of the focus on managing feelings and behaviour:

- Staff can ensure that children understand their own and others' behaviour and its consequences and learn to distinguish right from wrong.
- Staff can collaborate with children to create the rules and the codes of behaviour, for example, to agree the rules about tidying up and ensure that all children understand rules apply to everyone.

Individual liberty: freedom for all

As part of the focus on self-confidence & self-awareness and people & communities as cited in Personal Social and Emotional development and Understanding the World:

- Children should develop a positive sense of themselves. Staff can provide opportunities for children to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and increase their confidence in their own abilities, for example through allowing children to take risks on an obstacle course, mixing colours, talking about their experiences and learning.
- Staff should encourage a range of experiences that allow children to explore the language of feelings and responsibility, reflect on their differences and understand we are free to have different opinions, for example in a small group discuss what they feel about transferring into Reception Class.

Mutual respect and tolerance: treat others as you want to be treated

As part of the focus on people & communities, managing feelings & behaviour and making relationships as cited in Personal Social and Emotional development and Understanding the World:

- Managers and leaders should create an ethos of inclusivity and tolerance where views, faiths, cultures and races are valued, and children are engaged with the wider community.
- Children should acquire a tolerance and appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures; know about similarities and differences between themselves and others and among families, faiths, communities, cultures and traditions and share and discuss practices, celebrations and experiences.

Staff should encourage and explain the importance of tolerant behaviours such as sharing and respecting other's opinions.

Staff should promote diverse attitudes and challenge stereotypes, for example, sharing stories that reflect and value the diversity of children's experiences and providing resources and activities that challenge gender, cultural and racial stereotyping.

A minimum approach, for example having notices on the walls or multi-faith books on the shelves will fall short of 'actively promoting'.

It is NOT acceptable to:

- actively promote intolerance of other faiths, cultures and races
- fail to challenge gender stereotypes and routinely segregate girls and boys
- isolate children from their wider community
- fail 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

# Appendix D

## Serious injuries, accidents and illnesses

The setting must tell Ofsted about any of the following in relation to serious injuries, accidents and illnesses:

- the death of a child
- anything that requires resuscitation
- admittance to hospital for more than 24 hours
- a broken bone or fracture
- dislocation of any major joint, such as the shoulder, knee, hip or elbow
- any loss of consciousness
- severe breathing difficulties, including asphyxia
- anything leading to hypothermia or heat-induced illness
- any confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in staff or children

## Minor injuries

The setting does not need to tell Ofsted about minor injuries, even if treated at a hospital (for less than 24 hours). These include:

- animal and insect bites, such as a bee sting that doesn't cause an allergic reaction
- sprains, strains and bruising, for example if a child sprains their wrist tripping over their shoelaces
- cuts and grazes
- minor burns and scalds
- dislocation of minor joints, such as a finger or toe
- wound infections

## Eyes

The setting must report to Ofsted if a child suffers any loss of sight, whether it is temporary or permanent. You must also tell us about any:

- penetrating injury to the child's eye
- chemical or hot metal burn to the child's eye

## Substances and electricity

If a child in our care suffers any injury from, or requires medical treatment for, any of the following situations we must tell Ofsted:

- from absorption of any substance:
  - by inhalation
  - by ingestion
  - through the skin
- from an electric shock or electrical burn
- where there is reason to believe it resulted from exposure to:
  - a harmful substance
  - a biological agent
  - a toxin
  - an infected material



## Appendix E



# CONCERN REPORTING FORM

Logging a concern about a child's safety or welfare

Part 1 – For staff use

<b>Child Name:</b>			
<b>Date of birth:</b>		<b>Year Group / class:</b>	
<b>Name of referrer:</b>		<b>Role of referrer:</b>	
<b>Details of concern:</b>  <i>What are you worried about? Who? What (if recording a verbal disclosure by a child use their words)? Where? When (date and time of incident)? Any witnesses?</i>  <i>What is the pupil's account/perspective?</i>	<i>(Use body map if appropriate)</i>		
<b>Reported to:</b>		<b>Role of person reported to:</b>	
<b>Signed:</b>			
<b>Date:</b>			

Part 2: For DSL/Deputy DSL to complete

<b>Action taken:</b>		<b>Advice sought:</b>	
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		<i>(from whom and what was advice given)</i>	
<b>Concern / referral discussed with parent / carer?</b> If yes note discussion		<b><i>If not, state reasons why</i></b>	
<b>Referral made:</b> <i>Record names of individuals/agencies who have given information regarding outcome of any referral (if made).</i>		<b><i>If not, state reasons why</i></b>	
<b>Feedback to referring member of staff:</b>			<b><i>By whom</i></b>
<b>Response to / action taken with pupil:</b>			<b><i>By whom</i></b>
<b>Other notes / information:</b> <i>When making a referral about an acute specialist need/child protection follow up with a MARF</i>  <b>Any other action required:</b>			
<b>Signature of DSL</b>		<b><i>Date</i></b>	

## Appendix F

### Early Years

#### The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

##### Duty to refer

In addition to informing Ofsted, the Case Manager (e.g., Registered Person, Designated Safeguarding Lead) has a duty to refer any concerns to the LADO where it is alleged that a person who works\* with children has:

- behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child and/or;
- possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child and/or;
- behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she may pose a risk of harm to children; and/or
- behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.

Responsibility would also include reporting applications to work or volunteer with children and young people from adults who are barred from doing so as this poses a potential risk of significant harm to children and young people.

The LADO should be informed of ALL allegations that come to the Registered Persons/Designated Safeguarding Lead's (DSL) attention within 1 working day of the manager becoming aware of the allegation.

In cases where the nature of the allegation has not required immediate referral to the Compass or the Police, the Registered Person/DSL and the LADO will decide jointly as to whether such a referral is necessary and who will make it.

The LADO should also be informed of any allegations that are made directly to the police or Compass. It is important that even apparently less serious allegations are seen to be followed up objectively by someone independent of the organisation concerned. Therefore, the LADO should be informed of ALL allegations that come to the employers' attention.

##### The role of the Local Authority Designated Officer

The LADO will advise the employer of any action that may be necessary, whether an investigation will take place, and if so, what form the investigation will take. It is their role to provide on-going advice and liaison and to monitor the progress of cases. This may include:

- Advising the employer on next steps, such as the need to inform the child's parents; advice on dismissal or suspension of the member of staff accused; the decision as to whether the case will be investigated and by whom.
- Regularly monitoring the progress of cases to ensure that they are dealt with as quickly as possible consistent with a fair and thorough process.
- Liaising with the employer to provide advice and support when required/requested.
- Oversight and management of individual cases.

If an allegation is substantiated and the employer dismisses the person or ceases to use that person's services, the employer should consult with the LADO about whether a referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service is required.

Referral to the LADO should form part of your disciplinary and whistleblowing procedures.

### **The role of the setting's Designated Safeguarding Lead**

The DSL or Registered Person making the referral will be expected to play a key role in the investigative process and follow the advice given by the LADO. This may involve:

- Gathering any additional information which may have a bearing on the allegation, for instance: previous concerns, care and control incidents and so on;
- Providing the subject of the allegation with information and advising them to inform their union or professional body;
- Attending Strategy Meetings where required;
- Liaising with the LADO;
- Ensuring that risk assessments are undertaken where and when required;
- Ensuring that effective reporting and recording systems are in place which allow for the tracking of allegations through to the outcome;
- Should the allegation be unfounded, considering a referral either to Compass or the police if the allegation is deemed to be deliberately malicious or invented.

### **Record keeping**

It is important that employers keep a clear and comprehensive summary of any allegations made, details of how the allegation was followed up and resolved. This record should be placed on the person's confidential personnel file with a copy given to the individual.

The record should be kept at least until the person reaches retirement or for ten years if that would be longer.

The purpose of the record is to enable accurate information to be given in response to any future request for a reference.

Details of allegations that are found to be malicious should be removed from personnel records.

For further information see localised child protection procedures for West Midlands:

<https://westmidlands.procedures.org.uk/local-content/ygjN/localised-content-lado-managing-allegations/?b=Shropshire>

\*The term 'works with children' refers to any individual employed to work with children or acting in a voluntary capacity.

Please note: Registered providers must inform Ofsted of any allegations of serious harm or abuse by any person living, working, or looking after children at the premises (whether the allegations relate to harm or abuse committed on the premises or elsewhere). Registered providers must also notify Ofsted of the action taken in respect of the allegations. These notifications must be made as soon as is reasonably practicable, but at the latest within 14 days of the allegations being made. A registered provider who, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with this requirement, commits an offence.