

Safeguarding: Child Protection Policy

What is Safeguarding?

Safeguarding is an umbrella term for what we do in order to ensure children are safe from harm.

At St Vincent's Nursery our first priority is to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children in our care. If we have any cause for concern, we will report it, following the Hillingdon Children Safeguarding Partnership procedures.

Working together to safeguard children 2018 defines safeguarding as:

- **Protecting children from maltreatment**
- **Preventing impairment of children's health and development**
- **Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care**
- **Taking actions to ensure children have the best outcomes**

We understand that child abuse can be physical, sexual, emotional and neglectful, or a mixture of all these. Though we recognise all children are vulnerable to abuse we also recognise there are children who may be particularly vulnerable within the 4 vulnerable categories, Parental, Environment, Child and Child Neglect.

We have accessed training which has raised our awareness of FMG (Female Genital Mutilation), Honour based Marriage, Trafficking, Peer on Peer abuse, Private Fostering, County Lines, Fabricated Illness, Breast Ironing, Fabricated Illnesses, Domestic Abuse, Peer on Peer Abuse . (See appendices) these documents are available on request.

Procedure (how we put the statement into practice)

We keep up to date with child protection and safeguarding issues and relevant legislation, by ensuring it is a continuous agenda item at team meetings, by taking part in regular training courses and by reading relevant publications e.g. the "what to do if you are concerned" document, accessing Hillingdon Children Safeguarding Partnership web page and circulars sent by Hillingdon's Early Years Quality Team. This ensures we are aware of the signs of abuse or neglect and what to do if we have a concern, and any changes of policy we need to action.

All investigations and referrals will be made by the Designated Safeguarding Leads (Maria Carroll, Cheryl Haynes, Shereen Chandley, Nicola O' Beirne and Hayley Watson, one of whom will be on duty at all times) who will be responsible for taking the lead for any cause for concerns that could identify a member of staff or other professional. If concerns about a child's welfare, the designated lead will contact the local authority MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) who will support the DSL on the next steps to be taken and will inform Ofsted within 14 days. Child Protection concerns that could identify a particular child are kept confidential and only shared with people who need to know this information.

The DSL will inform the LADO of any allegations that may have been made against a member of staff or other professional- Statutory Framework 2017.

Parents must notify staff of any concerns they have about their child and any accidents, incidents or injuries affecting the child, which will be recorded by the key person or designated lead. Staff must also be notified if the child has involvement with any other agencies or professionals so we may work together to get the best outcomes for the child. We will work together with our parents to ensure the care of the child is consistent- please refer to our Parent Partnership Policy.

Signs that may cause concern

If a practitioner notices:

- Significant changes in children's behaviour unexpected bruising or marks or signs of possible abuse, or unsubstantiated illnesses
- Any comments made which give cause for concern
- Deterioration in general wellbeing which causes concern
- Signs of neglect

- We are aware that children with additional needs and babies maybe particularly vulnerable.

The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) will be responsible thereafter to implement the Children Safeguarding Partnership procedures without delay to minimise any risk to the child. The DSL will be responsible for insuring that all the evidence and documentation is in place for any further information that may be required. The DSL will contact MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub), to report concerns about a child at risk of harm. This will be followed up with a completed interagency report form within 48 hours. Reports will be a factual record of the concern, and be aware for the need to remain confidential.

It is important that children learn to identify and manage risks so we will ensure that we support the children- age appropriate, in taking acceptable risks in play, learn where to get help if needed e.g. community police, an adult with a child, dial 999 in an emergency, teach them about safety on line – e.g. reminding them to always use a password when in play on the computer etc. When we are out and about we ensure the children have straps and hold hands and know the rudiments of road safety. To encourage parents to share NSCPP 'underpants rule' document with their children.

We will ensure the children gain confidence choosing healthy options in their diet by introducing healthy snacks and meals. Help the children gain confidence in their own bodies and enjoy being physically active, by offering a wide variety of physical activities and games that we hope they will take interest in and carry on with them into adulthood.

Disclosures:

If a child tells a practitioner that they or another child is being abused, they will:

- Show they have heard what they are saying, and that they take allegations seriously
- Encourage the child to talk, but not prompt them or ask them leading questions. Not interrupt when a child is recalling significant events and will not make a child repeat their account
- Explain what actions must be taken, in a way that is appropriate to the age and understanding of the child.
- Write down what has been told using exact words where possible
- Make a note of the date, time, place and people who were present at discussion
- Then report the concerns immediately to the duty designated lead that has the experience and responsibility to make an assessment of the situation.

Mobile Phones and Cameras

Mobile phones are locked in the office and visitors are asked to leave their phones in safety in the office. Parents are asked to not greet their child with their phones- but a smile.

We have a mobile phone (without a camera) for outings to answer calls or make emergency calls if necessary. Only the nursery number is stored on the phone.

We use a camera/iPad to track a child's development and to build a learning story of their time with us. All photos will be deleted as soon as we have recorded them in the child's folder, and the camera will be locked away when not in use.

Social Network

- There are now a variety of different internet based social networks, for example, Facebook, WhatsApp and Twitter. Whilst these provide excellent means for communicating and sharing of information, they can also be used to bully, intimidate and cause distress. We introduce The adventures of Smartie the Penguin to the children (Please feel free to ask the management team for more information).

We are regular users of some networks however it is important that confidentiality is maintained at all times, so staff must not add parents or family business on their accounts.

In order to achieve this we have established the following guidelines:

- We will not put photos or personal information of families on the internet
- We will not discuss families personal information that might be used by others to identify them
- We will, with your permission, send photos of your child at activities during the day via your blossom app
- We ask parent to respect this policy and not share information or photos of children in your care or indeed our staff team.

If you have any concerns regards these policies please do not hesitate to contact the management team.

Local Social Services Duty Desk Triage MASH	01895 556 633
LADO-Local Authority Designated Officer (Allegations against myself or family) Robert Wratten	01895 250 975
Local Police Station	0208 246 1903
NSPCC child protection helpline- 24-hour helpline for People worried about a child Families concerned about radicalisation	0808 800 5000
Local Early Years Team- for support	01895 250 516
Prevent referrals to MASH	01895 277 930
Ofsted	0800 123 1231

We will ensure our practice is kept updated by regular training and regularly accessing the Hillingdon Child Safeguarding Partnership Web Page

If an allegation is made against a staff member or the management team please see the appendices

We will follow the lead of the LADO while investigating the situation.

Prevent – Anti Radicalisation

We are committed to Safeguarding and Promoting the welfare of children that attend our setting. We recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different from safeguarding children from any other of the abuses, and the children who may be vulnerable will show signs and behaviours that may include, graphic drawings, excessive gun play change of friendship groups and excessive travel and absences. To underpin the Prevent Duty we will uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British Values (Democracy, The Rule of Law, Individual Liberty and Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and believes), all of which are supported by the EYFS, development matters. We will rely on our Safeguarding and equalities policy to support our practice to ensure the children in our care are protected from negative influences. Our positive approach of “Be Kind: Be Safe: Be Caring”, is a commitment to all children and parents attending our setting.

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