

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Child Protection

Providers must have and implement a policy, and procedures, to safeguard children.



Child Protection Policy

Policy statement

To safeguard children and promote their welfare we will:

- Create an environment to encourage children to develop a positive self-image.
- Encourage children to develop a sense of independence and autonomy in a way that is appropriate to their age and stage of development.
- Provide a safe and secure environment for all children.
- Always listen to children.
- Share information with other agencies as appropriate.

Ashurst Wood Community Pre-school has a clear commitment to protecting children and promoting welfare. Should anyone believe that this policy is not being upheld, it is their duty to report the matter to the attention of the preschool manager/chairperson at the earliest opportunity.

Safeguarding Lead: - **Lauryn Page**

Second Safeguarding Officer: - **Shannon Brailey and Kate Coffey**

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

Protecting children from maltreatment

Preventing the impairment of children's health or development

Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.

(Definition taken from the HM Government document 'Working together to safeguard children')

Assets.publishing.service.gov.uk. 2021. [online] Available at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/942455/Working_together_to_safeguard_children_Statutory_framework_legislation_relevant_to_safeguarding_and_promoting_the_welfare_of_children.pdf

We support the children within our care, protect them from maltreatment and have robust procedures in place to prevent the impairment of children's health and development. Safeguarding is a much wider subject than the elements covered within this single child protection policy, therefore this. Document should be used in conjunction with the other preschool policies and procedures.

Our preschool will work with children, parents, external agencies, and the community to ensure the welfare and safety of children and to give them the very best start in life. Children have the right to be treated equally with respect and to be safe from any abuse in whatever form.

The legal framework for this policy is based on:

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2006)

Legislation.gov.uk. 2021. Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. [online] Available at:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/47/contents>

Working together to safeguard children.

Assets.publishing.service.gov.uk. 2021. [online] Available at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/942455/Working_together_to_safeguard_children_Statutory_framework_legislation_relevant_to_safeguarding_and_promoting_the_welfare_of_children.pdf

Educators have a duty to protect and promote the welfare of children. Due to the hours of care, we are providing, staff will often be the first people to sense that there is a problem. They may well be the first people in whom children confide in about abuse.

The Preschool has a duty to be aware that abuse does occur in our society.

This statement lays out the procedures that will be followed if we have any reason to believe that a child in our care is subject to welfare issues including physical, sexual, emotional abuse or neglect.

Our prime responsibility is the welfare and wellbeing of all children in our care. As such we believe we have a duty to the children, parents, and staff to act quickly and responsibly in any instance that may come to our attention. All staff will work as part of a multiagency team where needed in the best interests of the child.

The preschool aims to:

Ensure that children are never placed at risk.

Preschool staff will:

- Ensure that confidentiality is always maintained.
- Ensure that all staff are alert to the signs of abuse.
- Understand what is meant by child protection and are aware of the different ways in which children can be harmed including by other children i.e., bullying, discriminatory behaviour.
- Ensure that all staff are familiar and updated regularly with child protection issues and procedures.
- Ensure parents are fully aware of child protection policies and procedures when they register with the preschool and are kept informed of all updates when they occur.
- Keep the child at the centre of all we do.
- Regularly review and update this policy with staff and parents where appropriate.
- Children will be supported by offering reassurance, comfort, and sensitive interactions.
- Activities will be devised according to individual circumstances to enable children to develop confidence within their peer group.

Contact telephone numbers.

Ofsted (0300 123 1231)

Intergrated Front Door (01403 229900)

Types of abuse

The signs and indicators listed below may not necessarily indicate that a child has been abused but will help us to know that something may be wrong, especially if a child shows a number of these symptoms or any of them to a marked degree.

Children and babies may be abused physically through shaking or throwing. Other injuries may include burns or scalds. These are not usual childhood injuries and should always be logged and discussed with the Preschool manager and chairperson.

All signs of marks/injuries to a child when they come into preschool or occur during time at the preschool, will be recorded as soon as noticed by a staff member.

The incident will be discussed with the parent at the earliest opportunity.

Such discussions will be recorded, and the parent will have access to such records. If there appear to be any queries regarding the injury, the Safeguarding Partners in the local authority will be able to advise.

Fabricated illness

This is also a type of physical abuse. This is where a child is presented with an illness that is fabricated by the adult carer. The carer may seek out unnecessary medical treatment or investigation.

The signs may include a carer exaggerating a real illness or symptoms, complete fabrication of symptoms or inducing physical illness e.g., through poisoning, starvation, inappropriate diet.

This may also be presented through false allegations of abuse or encouraging the child to appear disabled or ill to obtain unnecessary treatment or specialist support. This is also a type of physical abuse. This is where a child is presented with an illness that is fabricated by the adult carer. The carer may seek out unnecessary medical treatment or investigation. The signs may include a carer exaggerating a real illness or symptoms, complete fabrication of symptoms or inducing physical illness e.g., through poisoning, starvation, inappropriate diet. This may also be presented through false allegations of abuse or encouraging the child to appear disabled or ill to obtain unnecessary treatment or specialist support.

Female Genital mutilation

This type of physical abuse is practised as a cultural ritual by certain ethnic groups and there is now more awareness of its prevalence in some communities in England. If there is concern about a child in this area, social services should be contacted, in the same way as other types of physical abuse. This type of physical abuse is practised as a cultural ritual by certain ethnic groups and there is now more awareness of its prevalence in some communities in England. If there is concern about a child in this area, social services should be contacted, in the same way as other types of physical abuse. FGM helpline [Tel: 0800 028 3550](tel:08000283550)

GOV.UK. 2021. Female genital mutilation: help and advice. [online] Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/female-genital-mutilation-help-advice>

Sexual abuse

The adult should reassure the child and listen without interrupting if the child wishes to talk.

The observed instances will be detailed in a confidential report.

The observed instances will be reported to the preschool manager.

The matter will be referred to IFD in the local authority.

This may include extremes of discipline where a child is shouted at or put down on a consistent basis, lack of emotional attachment by a parent, or it may include parents or carers placing inappropriate age or developmental expectations upon them.

Emotional abuse

May also be imposed through the child witnessing domestic abuse and alcohol and drug misuse by adults caring for them.

The child is likely to show extremes of emotion with this type of abuse. This may include shying away from an adult who is abusing them, becoming withdrawn, aggressive, or clingy to receive their love and attention. This type of abuse is harder to identify as the child is not likely to show any physical signs.

Procedure:

The concern should be discussed with the manager/chairperson.

The concern will be discussed with the parent.

Such discussions will be recorded, and the parent will have access to such records.

A Common Assessment Framework (CAF) may need to be completed.

Indicators of child abuse

Failure to thrive and meet developmental milestones.

Fearful or withdrawn tendencies

Aggressive behaviour

Unexplained injuries to a child or conflicting reports from parents or staff

Repeated injuries

Unaddressed illnesses or injuries.

Recording suspicions of abuse and disclosures

Staff should make an objective record (supported by the preschool manager or Designated Safeguarding Coordinator (DSCO) of any observation or disclosure, these should include:

Child's name

Child's address

Age of the child and date of birth

Date and time of the observation or the disclosure

Exact words spoken by the child.

Exact position and type of injuries or marks seen.

Exact observation of an incident including any other witnesses.

Name of the person to whom the concern was reported, with date and time; and the names of any other person present at the time.

Any discussion held with the parent(s) (where deemed appropriate).

These records should be signed by the person reporting this and the *manager/*DSCO, dated and kept in a separate confidential file.

If a child starts to talk to an adult about potential abuse it is important not to promise the child complete confidentiality. This promise cannot be kept. It is vital that the child can talk openly, and disclosure is not forced, or words put into the child's mouth. As soon as possible after the disclosure it is vital details are logged down accurately.

It may be thought necessary that through discussion with all concerned the matter needs to be raised with the IFD and Ofsted and/or a CAF needs to be initiated. Staff involved may be asked to supply details of any information/concerns they have regarding a child. The preschool expects all members of staff to co-operate with the requests of IFD and Ofsted in any way necessary to ensure the safety of the children. Staff must not make any comments either publicly or in private about a parent's or staffs supposed or actual behaviour.

Staffing and volunteering

It is the policy of the preschool to provide a secure and safe environment for all children. The preschool will therefore not allow an adult to be left alone with a child who has not received their enhanced DBS disclosure clearance. It is the policy of the preschool to provide a secure and safe environment for all children. All staff will attend child protection training within their first six months of employment and receive initial basic training during their induction period. This will include the procedures for spotting signs and behaviours of abuse and abusers, recording and reporting concerns and creating a safe and secure environment for the children in the preschool. All staff have safeguarding training.

Informing parents

Parents are normally the first point of contact. If a suspicion of abuse is recorded, parents are informed at the same time as the report is made, except where the guidance of the IFD does not allow this. This will usually be the case where the parent or family member is the likely abuser, or where a child may be endangered by this disclosure. In these cases, the investigating officers will inform parents.

Confidentiality

All suspicions, enquiries and external investigations are kept confidential and shared only with those who need to know. Any information is shared under the guidance of the IFD

Support to families

The preschool takes every step in its power to build up trusting and supportive relations among families, staff, and volunteers within the preschool.

The preschool continues to welcome the child and the family whilst enquiries are being made in relation to abuse in the home situation.

Parents and families will be treated with respect in a non-judgmental manner whilst any external investigations are carried out in the best interests of the child.

Confidential records kept on a child are shared with the child's parents or those who have parental responsibility for the child, only if appropriate under the guidance of the IFD with the provision that the care and safety of the child is paramount. We will do all in our power to support and work with the child's family.

Ashurst Wood Community Pre-School

Lauryn Page (Manager and Safeguarding Lead)

Shannon Brailey (Safeguarding Officer)

This policy was adopted by