

1. Safeguarding Children / Child Protection Policy

Safeguarding Statement

Jubilee Day Nursery is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all the children and expects all staff to share this commitment.

All members of staff are subject to a DBS check and satisfactory references.

At Jubilee Day Nursery we 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 with respect, be helped to thrive and to be safe from any abuse in whatever form.

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. In our setting we strive to protect children from the risk of radicalisation and we promote acceptance and tolerance of other beliefs and cultures (please refer to our Inclusion and Equality Policy Number 5). Safeguarding is a much wider subject than the elements covered within this single policy, therefore this document should be used in conjunction with the nursery's other policies and procedures.

Legal framework and definition of safeguarding

- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Childcare Act 2006
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) 2017
- What to do if you're worried a child is being abused 2015
- Working together to safeguard children 2015
- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.
- Serious Crime Act 2015.

Working Together to Safeguard Children provides statutory guidance for all professionals who have contact with children and families. It contains relevant supplementary guidance that professionals should consider, at Appendix C.

(https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/592101/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children_20170213.pdf P106)

“Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, in relation to 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
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.”

(Definition taken from the HM Government document ‘Working together to safeguard children 2015).

All Berkshire and West Berkshire safeguarding policies and procedures that the nursery abides by can be found online: <http://proceduresonline.com/berks>

Policy Intention

To safeguard children and promote their welfare we will:

- Create an environment to encourage children to develop a positive self-image
- Provide positive role models and develop a safe culture where staff are confident to raise concerns about professional conduct
- 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
- Promote tolerance and acceptance of different beliefs, cultures and communities
- Help children to understand how they can influence and participate in decision-making and how to promote British values through play, discussion and role modelling
- Always listen to children
- Provide an environment where practitioners are confident to identify where children and families may need intervention and seek the help they need
- Share information with other agencies as appropriate.

The nursery is aware that abuse does occur in our society and we are vigilant in identifying signs of abuse and reporting concerns. Our practitioners have a duty to protect and promote the welfare of children. Due to the many hours of care we are providing, staff may often be the first people to identify that there may be a problem. They may well be the first people in whom children confide information that may suggest abuse or to spot changes in a child’s behaviour which may indicate abuse.

Our prime responsibility is the welfare and well-being of each child 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. This includes sharing information with any relevant agencies such as local authority services for children’s social care, health professionals or the police. All staff will work with other agencies in the best interest of the child, including as part of a multi-agency team, where needed.

The nursery aims to:

- Keep the child at the centre of all we do
- Ensure staff are trained to understand the child protection and safeguarding policy and procedures, are alert to identify possible 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 through bullying or discriminatory behaviour
- Ensure staff understand how to identify early indicators of potential radicalisation and terrorism threats and act on them appropriately in line with national and local procedures
- Ensure that all staff feel confident and supported to act in the best interest of the child, share information and seek the help that the child may need
- Ensure that all staff are familiar and updated regularly with child protection training and procedures and kept informed of changes to local/national procedures
- Make any child protection referrals in a timely way, sharing relevant information as necessary in line with procedures set out by Local Safeguarding Children's Board
- Follows the Prevent "Safeguarding" Referral pathway in a timely way, sharing relevant information as appropriate should concerns be raised about extremism.
- Ensure that information is shared only with those people who need to know in order to protect the child and act in their best interest
- Ensure that children are never placed at risk while in the charge of nursery staff
- Take any appropriate action relating to allegations of serious harm or abuse against any person working with children or living or working on the nursery premises including reporting such allegations to Ofsted and other relevant authorities
- Ensure parents are fully aware of child protection policies and procedures when they register with the nursery and are kept informed of all updates when they occur
- Regularly review and update this policy with staff and parents where appropriate and make sure it complies with any legal requirements and any guidance or procedures issued by the West Berkshire Safeguarding Children's Board.

We will support children by offering reassurance, comfort and sensitive interactions. We will devise activities according to individual circumstances to enable children to develop confidence and self-esteem within their peer group.

Contact telephone numbers

Local authority children's social care team:	01635 503190 (Professionals only)
Local authority Designated Officer (LADO):	Debi Miles 01635 503153 & 01635 503090 (See Appendix C)
Ofsted:	0300 123 1231
Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB):	01635 519982
Non-emergency police:	101
Government helpline for extremism concerns:	020 7340 7264

Types of abuse and particular procedures followed

"Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment – a person may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Child welfare concerns may arise in many different contexts, and can vary greatly in terms of their nature and seriousness."

"Children may be abused in a family or in an institution or community setting, by those known to them or by a stranger, including, via the internet. In the case of female genital mutilation, children may be taken out of the country to be abused. They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children. An abused child will often experience more than one type of abuse, as well as other difficulties in their lives. Abuse and neglect can happen over a period of time, but can also be a one off event. Child abuse and neglect can have major long-term impacts on all aspects of a child's health, development and well-being."

What to do if you're worried a child is being abused March 2015

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

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

- Significant changes to behaviour patterns.

Recording suspicions of abuse and disclosures

Staff should make an objective record of any observation or disclosure, supported by the nursery manager or Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). This record 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 any injuries or marks seen
- Exact observation of any incident including any other witnesses
- Name of the person to whom any 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).

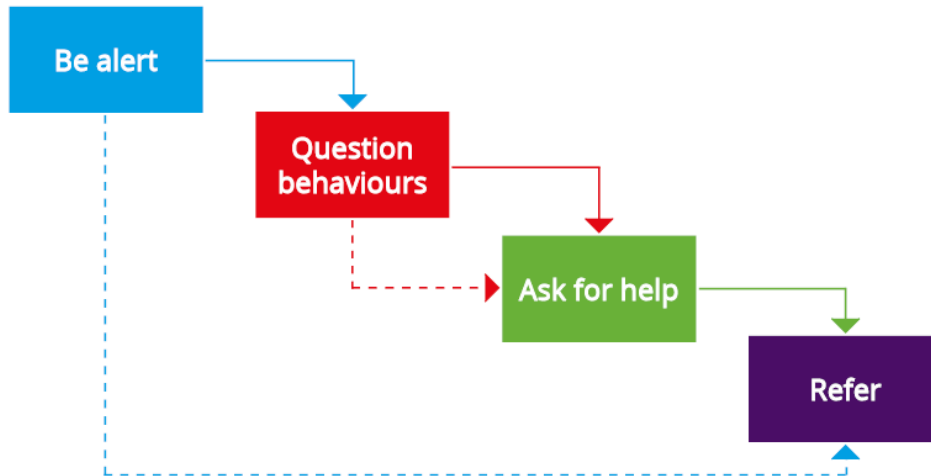
These records should be signed as soon as possible by the person reporting this and by the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), dated and kept in a separate confidential file. A Deputy DSL will need to sign if DSL is not on the premises.

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 is allowed to talk openly and disclosure is not forced or words put into the child's mouth. As soon as possible after the disclosure details must be logged accurately.

It may be thought necessary that through discussion with all concerned the matter needs to be raised with the local authority Children's Social Care Team; Contact Advice and Assessment Service Team (CAAS), Police and / or Ofsted. Staff involved may be asked to supply details of any information / concerns they have with regard to a child. The nursery expects all members of staff to co-operate with the local authority Children's Social Care, Police, 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 the supposed or actual behaviour of a parent or member of staff.

There are four key steps to follow to help you to identify and respond appropriately to possible abuse and / or neglect. It may not always be appropriate to go through all four stages sequentially. If a child is in immediate danger or is at risk of harm, you should refer to children's social care and / or the police.



What to do if you're worried a child is being abused March 2015

If the DSL contact the Children's Services Team, the Contact Advice and Assessment Service (CAAS) Team will decide on the safeguarding threshold level of the concern and information may then be shared with the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Team. Information may be requested from the nursery for further investigations to take place and each case will be triaged to determine the level of risk. (See Appendix D: CAAS Leaflet, Appendix E: MASH Flowchart)

Physical Abuse

Action needs to be taken if staff have reason to believe that there has been a physical injury to a child, including deliberate poisoning, where there is definite knowledge or reasonable suspicion that the injury was inflicted or knowingly not prevented. These symptoms may include bruising or injuries in an area that is not usual for a child, e.g. fleshy parts of the arms and legs, back, wrists, ankles and face.

Many children will have cuts and grazes from normal childhood injuries. These should also be logged and discussed with the nursery manager or room leader.

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 nursery manager.

Female Genital Mutilation

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is illegal in England and Wales under the FGM Act 2003 ("the 2003 Act"). This type of physical abuse is practised by certain ethnic groups and there is now more awareness of its prevalence including its effect on the child and family.

“The age at which FGM is carried out varies enormously according to the community. The procedure may be carried out shortly after birth, during childhood or adolescence, just before marriage or during a woman’s first pregnancy.”

“Whilst FGM may be an isolated incident of abuse within a family, it can be associated with other behaviours that discriminate against, limit or harm women and girls. These may include other forms or honour based violence (e.g. forced marriage) and domestic abuse.”

Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation April 2016

Symptoms may include bleeding, painful areas, acute urinary retention, urinary infection, wound infection, septicaemia, and incontinence, vaginal and pelvic infections with depression and post-traumatic stress disorder as well as physiological concerns. If you have concerns about a child relating to this area, you should contact Children’s Social Care Team in the same way as other types of physical abuse.

The FGM mandatory reporting duty under the Serious Crime Act 2015, came into force on 31st October 2015. The new mandatory duty for reporting FGM requires teachers in England and Wales to report known cases of FGM in under 18 year olds to the police.

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.

Procedure:

- All signs of marks/injuries to a child, when they come into nursery or occur during time at the nursery, will be recorded as soon as noticed by a staff member
- The incident will be discussed with the parent at the earliest opportunity, where felt appropriate
- Such discussions will be recorded and the parent will have access to such records
- If there are queries regarding the injury, the local authority children’s social care team will be notified in line with procedures set out by the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).

Sexual Abuse

Action needs to be taken if the staff member has witnessed an occasion(s) where a child indicated sexual activity through words, play, drawing, had an excessive preoccupation with sexual matters or had an inappropriate knowledge of adult sexual behaviour or

language. This may include acting out sexual activity on dolls/toys or in the role play area with their peers, drawing pictures that are inappropriate for a child, talking about sexual activities or using sexual language or words. The child may become worried when their clothes are removed, e.g. for nappy changes.

The physical symptoms may include genital trauma, discharge and bruises between the legs or signs of a sexually transmitted disease (STD). Emotional symptoms could include a distinct change in a child's behaviour. They may be withdrawn or overly extroverted and outgoing. They may withdraw away from a particular adult and become distressed if they reach out for them, but they may also be particularly clingy to a potential abuser so all symptoms and signs should be looked at together and assessed as a whole.

If a child starts to talk openly to an adult about abuse they may be experiencing the procedure below will be followed.

Procedure:

- 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 nursery manager or DSL
- The matter will be referred to the local authority children's social care team.

Emotional Abuse

Action should be taken if the staff member has reason to believe that there is a severe, adverse effect on the behaviour and emotional development of a child, caused by persistent or severe ill treatment or rejection.

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 or alcohol or 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 in order 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 Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
- The concern will be discussed with the parent
- Such discussions will be recorded and the parent will have access to such records
- If there are queries regarding the circumstances the matter will be referred to the local authority Children's Social Care Team (CAAS).

Neglect

Action should be taken if the staff member has reason to believe that there has been persistent or severe neglect of a child (for example, by exposure to any kind of danger, including cold, starvation or failure to seek medical treatment, when required, on behalf of the child), which results in serious impairment of the child's health or development, including failure to thrive.

Signs may include a child persistently arriving at nursery unwashed or unkempt, wearing clothes that are too small (especially shoes that may restrict the child's growth or hurt them), arriving at nursery in the same nappy they went home in or a child having an illness or identified special educational need or disability that is not being addressed by the parent. A child may also be persistently hungry if a parent is withholding food or not providing enough for a child's needs.

Neglect may also be shown through emotional signs, e.g. a child may not be receiving the attention they need at home and may crave love and support at nursery. They may be clingy and emotional. In addition, neglect may occur through pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse.

Procedure:

- The concern will be discussed with the parent
- Such discussions will be recorded and the parent will have access to such records
- If there are queries regarding the circumstances the local authority children's social care team will be notified.

Monitoring attendance of children

Although it is not compulsory for children to attend the early years setting, under our safeguarding responsibilities we are required to monitor children's attendance and patterns of absence. If a child is not going to attend a session, we ask parents/carers to share the length and reason for the absence.

This information will enable us to monitor illnesses that may occur across the setting. The management of the setting is required to monitor all absences in order to safeguard children, and demonstrate this during inspections, so please help our team by letting us know of any planned or unplanned absences as soon as possible.

Staffing

Our policy is to provide a secure and safe environment for all children. We only allow an adult who is employed by the nursery to care for children. All employed adults have an enhanced clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and can participate in regulated activity. We do not allow visitors to be alone with children in the nursery regardless of whether or not they have a DBS clearance.

All staff will attend safeguarding training and receive initial basic child protection training during their induction period. This will include the procedures for spotting signs and behaviours of abuse and abusers/potential abusers, recording and reporting concerns and creating a safe and secure environment for the children in the nursery. During induction staff will be given contact details for the LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer), the local authority Children's Services Team, the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and Ofsted to enable them to report any safeguarding concerns, independently, if they feel it necessary to do so.

We have a named person within the nursery who takes lead responsibility for safeguarding and co-ordinates child protection and welfare issues, known as the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). There is also a Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead who takes on the DSL's role in their absence. The nursery DSL liaises with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) and the local authority Children's Services Team. It also undertakes specific training, including Designated Lead training, and receives regular updates to developments within this field.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) at the nursery is: Lesley Thompson.

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads at the nursery are: Sian Caine, Emma Hirst, Helen Willis and Sam Ross.

- We provide adequate and appropriate staffing resources to meet the needs of all children
- Applicants for posts within the nursery are clearly informed that the positions are exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. Candidates are informed of the need to carry out checks before posts can be confirmed. Where applications are rejected because of information that has been disclosed, applicants have the right to know and to challenge incorrect information
- We give staff members and student's regular opportunities to declare changes that may affect their suitability to care for the children. This includes information about their health, medication or changes in their home life such as whether anyone they live with in a household has committed an offence or been involved in an incident that means they would be disqualified from working with children
- This information is also stated within every member of staff's contract
- We request DBS checks when staff are employed, we use the DBS update service to re-check staff's criminal history and suitability to work with children regularly
- We abide by the requirements of the EYFS and any Ofsted guidance in respect to obtaining references and suitability checks for staff and students, to ensure that all staff and students working in the setting are suitable to do so
- All students have enhanced DBS checks conducted on them before their placement starts
- We abide by the requirements of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 and the

- Childcare Act 2006 in respect of any person who is disqualified from providing childcare, is dismissed from our employment, or resigns in circumstances that would otherwise have led to dismissal for reasons of child protection concern
- We ensure we receive at least two written references BEFORE a new member of staff commences employment with us.
- We have procedures for recording the details of visitors to the nursery and take security steps to ensure that we have control over who comes into the nursery so that no unauthorised person has unsupervised access to the children
- All visitors/contractors are supervised whilst on the premises, especially when in the areas the children use
- All staff have access to and comply with the Whistleblowing Policy (Policy Number 14) which will enable them to share any concerns that may arise about their colleagues in an appropriate manner
- All staff receive regular supervision meetings where opportunities are made available to discuss any issues relating to individual children, child protection training and any needs for further support
- The deployment of staff within the nursery allows for constant supervision and support. Where children need to spend time away from the rest of the group, the door will be left ajar or other safeguards will be put into action to ensure the safety of the child and the adult.

Informing parents

Parents are normally the first point of contact if a safeguarding concern is raised. 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 LSCB/ local authority Children's Services Team / police does not allow this. This will usually be the case where the parent or family member is likely to be the 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 in line with guidance from the LSCB.

Support to families

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

The nursery 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-judgemental manner whilst any external investigations are carried out in the best interest 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 in line with guidance of the LSCB with the proviso 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.

Employees and students of the nursery or any other person living or working on the nursery premises

If an allegation is made against a member of staff, student or any other person who lives or works on the nursery premises regardless of whether the allegation relates to the nursery premises or elsewhere, we will follow the procedure below.

The allegation should be reported to the senior manager on duty. If this person is the subject of the allegation then this should be reported to the owner instead.

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), Ofsted and the LSCB will then be informed immediately in order for this to be investigated by the appropriate bodies promptly (see Appendix C):

- The LADO will be informed immediately for advice and guidance
- A full investigation will be carried out by the appropriate professionals (LADO, Ofsted, LSCB) to determine how this will be handled
- The nursery will follow all instructions from the LADO, Ofsted, LSCB and ask all staff members to do the same and co-operate where required
- Support will be provided to all those involved in an allegation throughout the external investigation in line with LADO support and advice
- The nursery reserves the right to suspend any member of staff during an investigation
- All enquiries/external investigations/interviews will be documented and kept in a locked file for access by the relevant authorities
- Unfounded allegations will result in all rights being reinstated
- Founded allegations will be passed on to the relevant organisations including the local authority children's social care team and where an offence is believed to have been committed, the police, and will result in the termination of employment. Ofsted will be notified immediately of this decision. The nursery will also notify the Disclosure and Barring Service
- (DBS) to ensure their records are updated

- All records will be kept until the person reaches normal retirement age or for 21 years and 3 months years if that is longer. This will ensure accurate information is available for references and future DBS checks and avoids any unnecessary reinvestigation
- The nursery retains the right to dismiss any member of staff in connection with founded allegations following an inquiry

Extremism – the Prevent Duty

From 1 July 2015 all registered early years childcare providers are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, in the exercise of their functions, to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. This duty is known as the Prevent Duty.

Any concerns about a child of family in relation to the Prevent Duty must be made to the DSL who will inform the relevant agency. Guidance can be found in the Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales (Revised July 2015) and The Prevent Duty departmental advice for schools and childcare providers (June 2015).