|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Pavilion Pirates Preschool  Baden-Powell Lodge,  Pavilion Road,  Off Woodhouse Lane,  Botley,  SO30 2EZ  Contact During Session:  07769177701  Email: pavilionpirates@live.co.uk | ***Registered Charity:1185950***  **2001-2021**  **20 Years**  ***Registered with Ofsted***  ***Supported By***  ***small for partnership publications*** |

**1.2 (a) Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

***This policy should be read in conjunction with the preschool’s Child Protection Policy 1:2 (b)***

**Policy Statement**

Safeguarding determines the actions that we take to keep children safe and protect them from harm in all aspects of their preschool life. As a preschool, we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children, young people and vulnerable adults.

The actions that we take to prevent harm; to promote wellbeing; to create safe environments; to educate on rights; respect and responsibilities; to respond to specific issues and vulnerabilities, all form part of the safeguarding responsibilities of the preschool. As such, this overarching policy will link to other policies which will provide more information and greater detail.

**Aims**

* To provide staff with the framework to promote and safeguard the wellbeing of children and in doing so ensure they meet the statutory responsibilities
* To ensure consistent good practice across the preschool
* To demonstrate our commitment to protecting children

**Principles and Values**

Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility. As such it does not rest solely with the Early Years Designated Safeguarding Lead (EYDSL) and the Deputy. Safeguarding procedures are intended to put into place measures that minimise harm to children.

|  |
| --- |
| Our Early Years Designated Safeguarding Lead (EYDSL) who co-ordinates child, young person or adult protection issues is:  **Linda Noble (Lead Practitioner)** |
| Should this person not be available, any safeguarding issue should be directed to the Deputy Early Years Designated Safeguarding Lead (DEYDSL) **Helen Travers (Deputy)** |

**Procedures**

* The designated person, and deputy ensure they have relevant links with statutory and voluntary organisations with regard to safeguarding.
* The designated person (and the person who deputises for them) understands Local Safeguarding Partners (LSPs) safeguarding procedures, attends relevant LSPs training at least every two years and refreshes their knowledge of safeguarding at least annually.
* We ensure all staff are trained to understand our safeguarding policies and procedures and that parents are made aware of them too.
* All staff understand that safeguarding is their responsibility.
* All staff have an up-to-date knowledge of safeguarding issues, are alert to potential indicators and signs of abuse and neglect and understand their professional duty to ensure safeguarding and child protection concerns are reported to the local authority children’s social care team or the NSPCC. They receive updates on safeguarding at least annually and throughout the year at staff meetings and supervisions.
* All staff are confident to ask questions in relation to any safeguarding concerns and know not to just take things at face value but can be respectfully sceptical.
* All staff understand the principles of early help (as defined in *Working Together to Safeguard Children*, December 2023) and are able to identify those children and families who may be in need of early help and enable them to access it.
* All staff have read Part One and Annex A (as a minimum) of Keeping children safe in education, September 2024.
* All staff understand the thresholds of significant harm and understand how to access services for families, including for those families who are below the threshold for significant harm, according to arrangements published by the LSPs.
* All staff understand their responsibilities under the General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018, and understand relevant safeguarding legislation, statutory requirements and local safeguarding partner requirements and ensure that any information they may share about parents and their children with other agencies is shared appropriately and lawfully.
* We will support families to receive appropriate early help by sharing information with other agencies in accordance with statutory requirements and legislation.
* We will share information lawfully with safeguarding partners and other agencies where there are safeguarding concerns.
* We will be transparent about how we lawfully process data.
* All staff understand how to escalate their concerns in the event that they feel either their own organisation has not acted adequately to safeguard and know how to follow local safeguarding procedures to resolve professional disputes between staff and organisations.
* All staff understand what the organisation expects of them in terms of their required behaviour and conduct, and follow our policies and procedures on positive behaviour, online safety (including use of cameras and mobile phones), whistleblowing and dignity at work.
* Children have a key person to build a relationship with, and are supported to articulate any worries, concerns or complaints that they may have in an age-appropriate way.
* Staff understand the term child on child abuse. However, in early years this is seen as a behaviour issue. All staff understand our policy on promoting positive behaviour and follow it in relation to children showing aggression towards other children.
* Adequate and appropriate staffing resources are provided to meet the needs of children.
* Applicants for posts within the setting are clearly informed that the positions are exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.
* Enhanced criminal records and barred lists checks and other suitability checks are carried out for staff and volunteers prior to their post being confirmed, to ensure that no disqualified person or unsuitable person works at the setting or has access to the children.
* Where applications are rejected based on information disclosed, applicants have the right to know and to challenge incorrect information.
* Volunteers must:
  + be aged 17 or over;
  + be considered competent and responsible;
  + receive a robust induction and regular supervisory meetings;
  + be familiar with all the settings policies and procedures;
  + not be left unsupervised with children
* Information is recorded about staff qualifications, and the identity checks and vetting processes that have been completed including:
* the criminal records disclosure reference number;
* certificate of good conduct or equivalent where a UK DBS check is not appropriate;
* the date the disclosure was obtained; and
* details of who obtained it.
* All staff and volunteers are informed that they are expected to disclose any convictions, cautions, court orders or reprimands and warnings which may affect their suitability to work with children (whether received before or during their employment with us).
* Staff receive regular supervision, which includes discussion of any safeguarding issues, and their performance and learning needs are reviewed regularly.
* In addition to induction and supervision, staff are provided with clear expectations in relation to their behaviour [outlined in the employee handbook] and in the Code of Conduct policy 2.5
* We notify the Disclosure and Barring Service of any person who is dismissed from our employment, or resigns in circumstances that would otherwise have led to dismissal for reasons of a child protection concern.
* Procedures are in place to record the details of visitors to the setting.
* Security steps are taken to ensure that we have control over who comes into the setting so that no unauthorised person has unsupervised access to the children.
* Steps are taken to ensure children are not photographed or filmed on video for any other purpose than to record their development or their participation in events organised by us. Parents sign a consent form and have access to records holding visual images of their child. Staff do not use personal cameras or filming equipment to record images.
* Personal mobile phones are not used where children are present.
* The designated person in the setting has responsibility for ensuring that there is an adequate online safety policy in place.
* We keep a written record of all complaints and concerns including details of how they were responded to.
* We ensure that robust risk assessments are completed, that they are seen and signed by all relevant staff and that they are regularly reviewed and updated, in line with our health and safety policy.
* We are committed to responding promptly and appropriately to all incidents, allegations or concerns of abuse that may occur and to work with statutory agencies in accordance with the procedures that are set down in 'What to do if you’re worried a child is being abused' (HMG, 2015) and the Care Act 2014.

*Responding to suspicions of abuse*

* We acknowledge that abuse of children can take different forms - physical, emotional, and sexual, as well as neglect.
* We ensure that all staff have an understanding of the additional vulnerabilities that arise from special educational needs and/or disabilities, plus inequalities of race, gender, language, religion, sexual orientation or culture, and that these receive full consideration in relation to child, young person or vulnerable adult protection.
* When children are suffering from physical, sexual or emotional abuse, or experiencing neglect, this may be demonstrated through:
* significant changes in their behaviour;
* deterioration in their general well-being;
* their comments which may give cause for concern, or the things they say (direct or indirect
* disclosure);
* changes in their appearance, their behaviour, or their play;
* unexplained bruising, marks or signs of possible abuse or neglect; and
* any reason to suspect neglect or abuse outside the setting.
  + We understand how to identify children who may be in need of early help, how to access services for them
* We understand that we should refer a child who meets the s17 Children Act 1989 child in need definition to local authority children’s social work services
* We understand that we should refer any child who may be at risk of significant harm to local authority children’s social work services.
* We are aware of the ‘hidden harm’ agenda concerning parents with drug and alcohol problems and consider other factors affecting parental capacity and risk, such as social exclusion, domestic violence, radicalisation, mental or physical illness and parent’s learning disability.
* We are aware that children’s vulnerability is potentially increased when they are privately fostered and when we know that a child is being cared for under a private fostering arrangement, we inform our local authority children’s social care team.
* We are prepared to take action if we have concerns about the welfare of a child who fails to arrive at a session when expected. The designated person will take immediate action to contact the child’s parent to seek an explanation for the child’s absence and be assured that the child is safe and well. If no contact is made with the child’s parents and the designated person has reason to believe that the child is at risk of significant harm, the relevant professionals/police are contacted immediately and LSPs procedures are followed. If the child has current involvement with social care the social worker is notified on the day of the unexplained absence.
* We are aware of other factors that affect children’s vulnerability that may affect, or may have affected, children and young people using our provision, such as abuse of children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities; fabricated or induced illness; child abuse linked to beliefs in spirit possession; sexual exploitation of children, including through internet abuse; Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and radicalisation or extremism.
* In relation to radicalisation and extremism, we follow the Prevent Duty guidance for England and Wales published by the Home Office and LSPs procedures on responding to radicalisation.
* All staff complete the online Prevent training to ensure they are familiar with the local protocol and procedures for responding to concerns about radicalisation.
* We are aware of the mandatory duty that applies to teachers, and health workers to report cases of FGM to the police. We are also aware that early years practitioners should follow local authority published safeguarding procedures to respond to FGM and other safeguarding issues, which involves contacting police if a crime of FGM has been or may be about to be committed.
* We also make ourselves aware that some children and young people are affected by gang activity, by complex, multiple or organised abuse, county lines or through forced marriage or honour-based violence or may be victims of child trafficking. While this may be less likely to affect young children in our care, we may become aware of any of these factors affecting older children and young people who we may come into contact with.
* If we become concerned that a child may be a victim of modern slavery or human trafficking, we will refer to the National Referral Mechanism (updated Dec, 2021), as soon as possible and refer and/or seek advice to the local authority children’s social work service and/or police.

*Disciplinary action*

Where a member of staff or volunteer has been dismissed due to engaging in activities that caused concern for the safeguarding of children or vulnerable adults, we will notify the Disclosure and Barring Service of relevant information, so that individuals who pose a threat to children and vulnerable groups can be identified and barred from working with these groups.

*Our commitment*

We are committed to promoting awareness of child abuse issues throughout our training and learning programmes for adults. We are also committed to empowering children through our early childhood curriculum, promoting their right to be strong, resilient and listened to.

*Training*

* Training opportunities are sought for all adults involved in the setting to ensure that they are able to recognise the signs and signals of possible physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse (including child sexual exploitation) and neglect and that they are aware of the local authority guidelines for making referrals. Training opportunities should also cover extra familial threats such as online risks, radicalisation and grooming, and how to identify and respond to families who may be in need of early help, and organisational safeguarding procedures.
* Designated persons receive appropriate training, as recommended by the local safeguarding partners, every two years and refresh their knowledge and skills at least annually.
* We ensure that all staff know the procedures for reporting and recording any concerns they may have about the provision.
* We ensure that all staff receive updates on safeguarding via emails, newsletters, online training and/or discussion at staff meetings at least once a year.
* We signpost staff to Hampshire Children’s Safeguarding Partnership and NSPCC website to assist with up- to- date information.

*Planning*

* The layout of the rooms allows for constant supervision. No child is left alone with staff or volunteers in a one-to-one situation without being within sight and/or hearing of other staff or volunteers.

*Curriculum*

* We introduce key elements of keeping children safe into our programme to promote the personal, social and emotional development of all children, so that they may grow to be strong, resilient and listened to and so that they develop an understanding of why and how to keep safe.
* We create within the setting a culture of value and respect for individuals, having positive regard for children's heritage arising from their colour, ethnicity, languages spoken at home, cultural and social background.
* We ensure that this is carried out in a way that is developmentally appropriate for the children.

*Confidentiality*

* All suspicions and investigations are kept confidential and shared only with those who need to know. Any information is shared under the guidance of the local safeguarding partners and in line with the GDPR, Data Protection Act 2018, and Working Together 2018.

*Support to families*

* We believe in building trusting and supportive relationships with families, staff and volunteers.
* We make clear to parents our role and responsibilities in relation to child protection, such as for the reporting of concerns, information sharing, monitoring of the child, and liaising at all times with the local children’s social care team.
* We will continue to welcome the child and the family whilst investigations are being made in relation to any alleged abuse.
* We follow the Child Protection Plan as set by the child’s social worker in relation to the setting's designated role and tasks in supporting that child and their family, subsequent to any investigation.
* We will engage with any Child in Need Plan or Early Help Plan as agreed.
* Confidential records kept on a child are shared with the child's parents or those who have parental responsibility for the child in accordance with the Confidentiality and Client Access to Records procedure, and only if appropriate under the guidance of the local safeguarding partners.

**Legal framework**

*Primary legislation*

* Children Act (1989 s47)
* Protection of Children Act (1999)
* The Children Act (2004 s11)
* Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2006)
* Childcare Act (2006)

*Secondary legislation*

* Sexual Offences Act (2003)
* Criminal Justice and Court Services Act (2000)
* Equality Act (2010)
* General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) (2018)
* Data Protection Act (1998)
* Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations 2009
* Children and Families Act 2014
* Serious Crime Act 2015
* Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (2015)

**Further guidance**

* Working Together to Safeguard Children (HMG 2023)
* What to do if you’re Worried a Child is Being Abused (HMG 2015)
* The Common Assessment Framework for Children and Young People: A Guide for Practitioners (CWDC 2010)
* Revised Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales (HMG 2015)
* Statutory guidance on making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under section 11 of the Children Act 2004 (HMG 2008)
* Inspecting Safeguarding in Early Years, Education and Skills Settings, (Ofsted, 2022)
* Information Sharing: Guidance for Practitioners providing Safeguarding Services (DfE 2018)
* Disclosure and Barring Service: [www.gov.uk/disclosure-barring-service-check](http://www.gov.uk/disclosure-barring-service-check)
* Keeping children safe in education (September 2024)
* HSCP Website

**Definitions**

Within this document:

***‘Safeguarding’*** is defined in the Children Act 2004 as protecting from maltreatment; preventing impairment of health and development; ensuring that children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care; and work in a way that gives the best life chances and transition to adult hood. Our safeguarding practice applies to every child.

***‘Child’*** refers to all young people who have not yet reached their 18th birthday. On the whole, this will apply to pupils at our preschool: however, the policy will extend to visiting children and students from other establishments.

A ‘***young person’*** is defined as 16 to 19 years old – in our setting they may be a student, worker, volunteer or parent.

A ***‘vulnerable adult’*** is defined as a person ‘who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation’ (No Secrets DoH 2015).

The term ***‘Staff’*** applies to all those working for or on behalf of the school, full time or part time, in either a paid or voluntary capacity. This also includes committee/trustee members.

‘***Parent’*** refers to birth parents and other adults in a parenting role, for example adoptive parents, guardians, step parents and foster carers.

**1.2 (a) Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

**This policy was adopted by Pavilion Pirates Preschool CIO**

**On 21.07.2021**

**Date reviewed 13.09.2024**

**(To be reviewed annually)**

**Signed on behalf of the provider**

**Name and Role of Signatory Linda Noble (Trustee/NI)**

**Signed on behalf of the provider**

**Name and Role of Signatory Helen Travers (Trustee)**

**REVIEW DATE 13.09.2025**