

## SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

Rainbow Corner Nursery Schools Designated Safeguarding Officers are:



Emma Maltby  
(Nursery Manager)



Clare Purdy  
(Deputy Nursery Manager)



Linda Smith  
(Deputy Nursery Manager)

**Strategy** - To work in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) guidance and The Department for Education procedures, ensuring Safeguarding to all children within our nursery school. We intend to create an environment in which children are safe from abuse and in which any suspicion of abuse is promptly and appropriately responded to.

The Department of Education defines safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children as:

- \* Protecting children from maltreatment.
- \* Preventing impairment of children's health or development.
- \* Ensuring children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.

### **Guidance Supporting This Policy-**

The children's Act 1989 and 2004  
Local Safeguarding Children Board  
What to do if you're worried a child is being abused 2015  
Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015  
Information Sharing 2015  
Prevent Duty & Promoting British Values 2015  
Statutory Framework for the early years foundation stage 2014  
Keeping Children Safe in Education 2015

**Definitions of Abuse** - Abuse includes all forms of physical abuse including sexual abuse and all forms of ill treatment which is not physical.

**Definition of Harm** – Harm includes the impairment of health (physical and mental) or development (intellectual, physical, emotional, social or behavioural).

### **Examples of indicators of Abuse –**

Physical – unexplained bruising; inconsistent with their age and stage of development; facial bruising; hand and finger marks; unexplained fractures.

**Neglect** – Poor hygiene; dirty/torn/inappropriate clothing; untreated medical problems; poor nourishment; failure to thrive.

Emotional – Attention seeking; withdrawn; telling lies; low self esteem.

Sexual – Sudden changes in personality; aggression; showing affection in sexual ways inappropriate to their age; difficulty in walking and sitting; itching in genital areas; infection; withdrawn.

**Our aims** – Protecting children and teaching them how to protect themselves. To raise awareness of staff, children, parents and all others present in the setting. All children are given opportunities and experiences everyday such as role-play, creative and language activities enhancing their abilities to develop a sense of self-awareness and self-confidence to express their feelings. We ensure these are safe by risk assessing and by having sufficient experienced and trained staff.

**Confidentiality** – It is the nursery's policy that any information given, or disclosed by a parent or any other professional associated with that child be treated with the utmost confidentiality. However, if the child discloses something of concern he/she will be made aware that it is in their interest that the information will be shared between relevant parties. A record of this is then stored in a locked cupboard in the nursery office.

**Responding and Recording** appropriately to Suspicions of Abuse - The staff are required to be aware of the first signs or symptoms of physical, sexual or emotional abuse, and how to follow the correct child protection procedures.

**Designated Person** – The Manager is responsible for liaising with Child Protection agencies (Local children's service, Local Authority Designated Officer and the police). They have a job description which sets out all responsibilities. Training is updated every three years; any other members of staff are given opportunities to train.

**All staff** employed have an induction which involves all policies and procedures contained in their staff manuals, with high regard to the Safeguarding Children Policy with regards to 'What to do if you if you are worried about a child being abused'. During induction, all staff members attend the basic safeguarding training.

**Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checks** – All staff, volunteers and student placements have Enhanced Disclosures and all appointments are conditional on successful completion of a probationary period, subject to two references and health checks. Any member of staff awaiting a DBS Check will be supervised by a room leader at all times and their name displayed in their working room, as with any student placement they are unable to take part in any intimate care routines involving the

change of nappies and accompany children to the toilets, they will not at any time be left on their own.

**Disqualification by association** – all staff members, volunteers and placements complete a suitability declaration. This is reviewed regularly through on going meetings such as supervision and appraisals and annual updated forms.

If a member of staff is living in a household with someone who is disqualified, then they too are disqualified from working with children by association. This applies to household members including partner, children including foster children, house share colleagues and lodgers. Ofsted must be notified within 14 days, if a member of staff is found to be disqualified or is found to be living with someone who is disqualified.

On average there are three members of staff in each room, thus preventing any member of staff being left alone with an individual child or small groups of children for long lengths of time.

When a member of staff changes a child's nappy or clothing, they must notify other staff members they are working with to ensure another member of staff is present. If taking children to the toilet, they must make other staff members aware.

A detailed form must be completed by staff members when changing children's clothes. This is shared with the parent and then signed by the parent and staff member, another member of staff needs to be a witness to this.

All staff attend regular supervision meetings with the manager to discuss children's development and well-being and to discuss any safeguarding issues that may arise. The manager ensures that staff members carry out their responsibilities to a professional standard and identify their learning needs in order to support them in fulfilling their roles and responsibilities.

**SAF** –Single assessment framework.

If a family is identified in needing further support from additional services we will invite the parents/carer to complete a SAF. This assessment tool helps identify which professionals and agencies need to be involved to help and support the family.

The parent will be given the option to choose a 'lead professional' this person will be responsible for liaisons with other agencies. A member of staff, usually the manager from the nursery will attend/send a report to any 'Team Around the Child' (TAC) meetings set up for the child during the time in which they attend the setting.

Before any SAF is undertaken, the manager should contact **JAT** – The Joint Action Team on 0845 671 0271/023 9268 8793- [cafenq@portsmouthcc.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:cafenq@portsmouthcc.gcsx.gov.uk) as there may already be a SAF in place.

JAT are a team of professionals from social care, education, health and the police, who will respond to any concerns we may have.

If a child in our care is subject to social care intervention and already has a SAF, child protection plan or a child in need plan in place, additional information may be required about the child, additional information may include: A record of the arrival and departure times of the child, a record of who drops off and collects and a record of any attendance patterns. This is discussed with the child's key person and information is shared with the Manager, who will notify the relevant professionals involved.

If a child talks to any staff, volunteers or students, then the following guidelines should be followed:

- Listen to and take seriously any information shared that a child may be at risk of harm
- Clarify the information
- Stay calm and reassuring
- Do not make promises that cannot be kept e.g. confidentiality – tell the child that you will have to tell someone else who will be able to help; explain that only those who 'need to know' will be told
- Reassure the child that they were not to blame and that they were right to talk to you
- Keep an open mind
- Record the conversation and facts verbatim in writing immediately afterwards on the 'Confidential Observation Form', located in the nursery office.
- Writing notes during the conversation may put undue pressure on the child
- Try to keep questions to a minimum and of an 'open' nature e.g. 'Can you tell me what happened?' rather than 'Did x hit you?'
- Try not to show signs of shock, horror or surprise
- Do not express feelings or judgments regarding any person alleged to have harmed the child
- Explain sensitively to the child/staff that they have a responsibility to refer the information to the Designated Safeguarding Officer
- Report to the Designated Person or Manager who will the Local Safeguarding Children's Board Department as necessary

### **Disclosures/Concerns**

Records should include:

- Name of child
- Age of child
- Time and Date of observation
- Objective, description of the child's behavior/appearance without interpretation where possible.
- Where possible record the exact words spoken by the child
- Date and name of the person recording
- Name of witness if present
- Signature of manager

- All records are placed in a file and kept in a locked cupboard in the office.

If the child is thought to be in immediate risk of serious harm, then the Police will be contacted.

Concerns will be taken to the child protection officer who follows the necessary procedures. If immediate action is not thought to be necessary to protect the child, further observations will continue to monitor the child's behaviour.

We will follow the guidance set out in the publication 'What to do if you are worried a child is being abused'.

If further action is required the child protection officer will continue with the Referral process and contact JAT – Joint Action Team to discuss the events which have taken place for an initial assessment and will make a referral to Children's Services if directed to do so; following up in writing within 48 hours. The manager and social worker acknowledge receipt of referral and decide on the next course of action within one working day.

An initial assessment may then be required.

Concerns about the child's immediate safety are discussed and if the need for emergency action is required.

### **Informing parents**

The parents will be contacted immediately if a suspicion of abuse is recorded; parents are informed at the same time as the report is made, except where guidance of the Joint Action Team does not allow this. This will usually be the case where the parent is likely to be the abuser. In this case the investigating officer, will inform the parents.

**Privacy** – A child's privacy must be respected at all times.

**Pre –existing injuries**— Any injuries, bruises etc noticed on a child upon arrival at nursery or subsequently discovered, but not thought to be caused during their time at nursery are questioned and a record kept on an existing injuries sheet with the date, location and parent's signature, where possible the child's explanation of the cause of the incident should also be recorded. If a parent was unable to explain an injury, the manager will be notified and decided whether to take immediate action or whether to monitor any subsequent patterns, should they emerge.

Our 'Camera, mobile phone and recording devices policy', forbids the use of personal cameras, mobile phone and recording devices by staff, students, volunteers, parents/carers and visitors whilst on duty or in the presence of our nursery children.

The staff will turn off their mobile phones before entering the nursery, sign their phones in and then place them in a container, in the cupboard in the nursery office, staff are then able to collect their devices at the end of the working day.

**Allegation of Abuse made against a member of staff or volunteer** - If a member of staff is accused of an allegation of child abuse, s/he will not be left unsupervised until

the manager has contacted the Local Authority Designated Officer (Denise Lingham) for advice. If a serious allegation is made against a member of staff, it may be necessary to suspend them while an investigation takes place.

Investigations will be in line with Local Children's Services guidelines and the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) Denise Lingham, 023 9288 2500

[Denise.ingham@portsmouthcc.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:Denise.ingham@portsmouthcc.gcsx.gov.uk) is to be alerted to all cases in which it is alleged that a person who works with children has:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed, or may have harmed a child.
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against children, or related to a child.
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates s/he is unsuitable to work with children.

Confidential records will be kept of all the allegations and of all subsequent proceedings. Ofsted will be notified within 14 days of any allegations of serious harm or abuse by any person, working or looking after children on the nursery premises.

**Duty of Care** – We will make a referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) where a member of staff is dismissed (or would have been, had the person not left the nursery voluntarily first) because they have harmed or put a child at risk of harm.

Our 'Whistle Blowing' policy advises and encourages staff to feel confident in raising serious concerns at the earliest opportunity.

**Prevent Duty and Promoting British Values** – all early years childcare providers are subject 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 is known as the Prevent Duty and Promoting British Values. Here at Rainbow Corner Nursery School we take safeguarding very seriously, therefore to ensure that we adhere to and achieve the prevent duty and promoting British values please See The Prevent Duty & Promoting British Values Policy.

#### Contacts/Liaisons with other Professionals

JAT – Joint Action Team (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) come October 15)  
Civic Offices  
Guildhall Square  
Portsmouth  
PO1 2BG  
**0845 671 0271**

**023 9268 8793**

The National Business Unit  
Ofsted  
Piccadilly Gate  
Manchester  
M1 2WD  
**0300 123 1231**

Social Care  
Emergency out-of-hours – **0300 555 1373**

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)  
Denise Lingham – **02392 882 500**

Police (Non-emergency) – **0845 045 4545**

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