



1.2 Safeguarding children and child protection

Policy statement

Our setting will work with children, parents and the community to ensure the rights and safety of children and to give them the very best start in life. Our Safeguarding Policy is based on the three key commitments of the Early Years Alliance Safeguarding Children Policy.

Contact details for organisations linked to safeguarding and child protection:

- Multi Agency Referral Unit (MARU) 0300 1231 116
- Children's Safeguarding Team for medical advice or to speak to the Designated Doctor/Nurse
Opening hours: Monday -Thursday 9-5, Friday 9-4.30. Out of hours paediatric advice RCHT 01872-250000
- LADO (Local authority designated officer) 01872-326536 (allegations against a member of staff or volunteer) Mobile no 07516 112601
- Cornwall out of hours service 01208 251300
- Cornwall and Devon Police Central Referral Unit 08452 777444
- Ofsted 0300 123 123
- Domestic Abuse Helpline West Cornwall - 01736 367539
- Child Line 0800 1111
- NSPCC Child Protection Helpline 0808 800 5000
- Government guidance for early years: <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/eycovidupdates>

Guidance:

The following are saved as a link on the desktop:

- Working together to Safeguard Children 2018
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779401/Working_Together_to_Safeguard-Children.pdf
- Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Safeguarding Children Partnership
<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/childrens-services/cornwall-and-isles-of-scilly-safeguarding-children-partnership/>
- What to do if you are worried a Child is Being Abused
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419604/What_to_do_if_you_re_worried_a_child_is_being_abused.pdf
- Prevent Duty document
- SEN Code of Practice 2015 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>

- Guidance for safe working practice for adults working with children and young people in an education setting.

Paper copies of the following documents are kept with the Safeguarding Children Policy:

- Maru (Multi Agency Referral Unit) Contact details.
- Map of common sites of accidental and non-accidental injuries.
- The Prevent Duty.
- The EYFS and British Values poster
- List of supportive websites.
- LSP Inter-agency Guidance notes
- LADO Guidance

Procedures

We carry out the following procedures to ensure we meet the three key commitments of the Alliance Safeguarding Children Policy.

Key commitment 1

We are committed to building a 'culture of safety' in which all children are protected from abuse and harm in all areas of our service delivery. This includes children with special educational needs and /or disabilities.

▪ **Our designated officer who oversees this work is:**

Sabine Underwood, Maddi Murley and Megan Forder

Staff responsible for specific areas related to safeguarding and child protection are:

- Health and safety officer: Sabine Underwood .
 - Child Protection Officers are Sabine Underwood and Maddi Murley
 - SENCO Sabine Underwood and Maddi Murley. See our Special Educational Needs Policy.
 - Behaviour Management Coordinator is Maddi Murley. See our Behaviour Management Policy.
 - Children in Care Officer is Sabine Underwood.
- We ensure all staff are trained to understand our safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures and that parents are made aware of them too.
 - We record any causes for concern and discussions with parents/carers regarding these concerns are noted.
 - Children coming in with injuries sustained out of the setting are recorded, as is the parents explanation of how these injuries were sustained.
 - All staff have an up-to-date knowledge of safeguarding issues, are alert to the signs and symptoms of abuse, and understand their professional duty to ensure safeguarding concerns are reported to the local authority Multi Agency Referral Team or the NSPCC.

Updates are facilitated by staff attending a Safeguarding Course every two years as well as in-house staff training termly meetings.

- The designated officers attend bi-annual training to update their knowledge.
- All staff are confident to ask questions in relation to any safeguarding and child protection concerns and know not to just take things at face value but can be respectfully skeptical.
- Adequate and appropriate staffing resources are provided to meet the needs of all children. This ensures that the risk of peer on peer abuse can be identified early and dealt with appropriately.
- 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.
- Enhanced criminal records and barred lists checks are carried out on anyone living or working on the premises.
- Volunteers do not work unsupervised.
- Information is recorded about staff qualifications, and the identity checks and vetting processes that have been completed including:
 - the criminal records disclosure reference number;
 - 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).
- All staff and volunteers are required to notify us if anyone in their household (including family members, lodgers, partners etc.) has any relevant convictions, court orders, reprimands and warnings or has been barred from, or had registration refused or canceled in relation to any childcare provision (see above questions), or have had orders made in relation to care of their children.
- 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.
- Any personal information is held securely and in line with data protection requirements and guidance from the ICO (Information Commissioner's Office).
- The designated person in the setting has responsibility for ensuring that there is an adequate e-safety policy in place. Children are not able to access the internet without adult supervision.
- 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.
- The designated officers will support each to undertake their role adequately and offer advice, guidance, supervision and support.
- The designated officers will be informed at the first opportunity of every significant safeguarding concern, however this should not delay any referrals being made to the children's social worker services, the LADO, Ofsted or Riddor.

Operation Encompass:

Operation Encompass is a police and education early information safeguarding partnership enabling schools to offer immediate support to children experiencing domestic abuse.

Operation Encompass ensures that there is a simple telephone call or notification to a school or Early Years setting designated Safeguarding Lead (known as key adult) prior to the start of the next school day after an incident of police attended domestic abuse where there are children related to either of the adult parties involved. Information is shared with a school's key adult prior to the start of the next school day after officers have attended a domestic abuse incident. This sharing of information enables appropriate support to be given, dependent upon the needs and wishes of the child.

The designated Officer has completed Operation Encompass training and the training has been cascaded at staff meetings.

Key commitment 2

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).

Responding to suspicions of abuse

- We acknowledge that abuse of children can take different forms - physical, emotional, and sexual, as well as neglect.
- 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 consider factors affecting parental capacity and risk, such as social exclusion, domestic violence, parent's drug or alcohol abuse, mental or physical illness or 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 department.
- We are aware of other factors that affect children's vulnerability such as, abuse of disabled children; fabricated or induced illness; child abuse linked to beliefs in spirit possession; sexual exploitation of children, such as through internet abuse; and Female Genital Mutilation and radicalisation; that may affect, or may have affected, children and young people using our provision. If we are concerned about a girl being at risk of FGM, we will inform the MARU for advice and guidance.
- We also make ourselves aware that some children and young people are affected by gang activity, by complex, multiple or organised abuse, 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.
- Where we believe that a child in our care or that is known to us may be affected by any of these factors we follow the procedures below for reporting child protection concerns and follow the LSP (Local Safeguarding Partnership) procedures.

Where such evidence is apparent, the child's key person makes a dated record of the details of the concern and discusses what to do with the member of staff who is acting as the 'designated person'. The information is stored on the child's personal file.

- In the event that a staff member or volunteer is unhappy with the decision made of the designated person in relation to whether to make a safeguarding referral they must follow escalation procedures.
- We refer concerns to the local authority children's social care department and co-operate fully in any subsequent investigation. NB In some cases this may mean the police or another agency identified by the Local Safeguarding Partnership.
- We take care not to influence the outcome either through the way we speak to children or by asking questions of children.
- We take account of the need to protect young people aged 16-19 as defined by the Children Act 1989. This may include students or school children on work placement, young employees or young parents. Where abuse is suspected we follow the procedure for reporting any other child protection concerns. The views of the young person will always be taken into account, but the setting may override the young person's refusal to consent to share information if it feels that it is necessary to prevent a crime from being committed or intervene where one may have been, or to prevent harm to a child or adult. Sharing confidential information without consent is done only where not sharing it could be worse than the outcome of having shared it.
- We have a whistle blowing policy in place.

Recording suspicions of abuse and disclosures

- Where a child makes comments to a member of staff that give cause for concern (disclosure), or a member of staff observes signs or signals that give cause for concern, such as significant changes in behaviour; deterioration in general well-being; unexplained bruising, marks or signs of possible abuse or neglect; that member of staff:
 - listens to the child, offers reassurance and gives assurance that she or he will take action;
 - does not question the child;
 - makes a written record that forms an objective record of the observation or disclosure that includes: the date and time of the observation or the disclosure; the exact words spoken by the child as far as possible; the name of the person to whom the concern was reported, with the date and time; and the names of any other person present at the time.
- These records are signed and dated and kept in the child's personal file, which is kept securely and confidentially.
- The designated officers are informed of the issue at the earliest opportunity, and within 1 working day.
- The designated officer will talk to the parents/ carers for the child and will decide how to proceed further.

Making a referral to the Multi Agency Referral Unit

- We use the advice and latest referral guidance on the Multi Agency Referral Unit website. www.supportincornwall.org.uk

Escalation process

- If we feel that a referral made has not been dealt with properly or that concerns are not being addressed or responded to, we will follow the LSP escalation process.
- We will ensure that staff are aware of how to escalate concerns.

Informing parents

- Parents are normally the first point of contact. Concerns are discussed with parents to gain their view of events, unless it is felt that this may put the child in greater danger.
- Parents are informed when we make a record of concerns in their child's file and that we also make a note of any discussion we have with them regarding a concern.
- If a suspicion of abuse warrants referral to social care, parents are informed at the same time that the referral will be made, except where the guidance of the Local Safeguarding Children Board does not allow this, for example, where it is believed that the child may be placed in greater danger.
- This will usually be the case where the parent is the likely abuser.
- If there is a possibility that advising a parent beforehand may place a child at greater risk the designated person should seek advice from children's social work services, about whether or not to advise parents beforehand, and should record and follow the advice given.

Liaison with other agencies

- We work within the Local Safeguarding Partnership guidelines.
- The current version of 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused' available for parents and staff and all staff are familiar with what they need to do if they have concerns.
- We have procedures for contacting the local authority regarding child protection issues, including maintaining a list of names, addresses and telephone numbers of social workers, to ensure that it is easy, in any emergency, for the setting and children's social care to work well together.
- We notify Ofsted of any incident or accident and any changes in our arrangements which may affect the well-being of children or where an allegation of abuse is made against a member of staff (whether the allegations relate to harm or abuse committed on our premises or elsewhere). Notifications to Ofsted are made as soon as is reasonably practicable, but at the latest within 14 days of the allegations being made.

Allegations against staff/whistle blowing

- We ensure that all parents and staff know how to complain about the behaviour or actions of staff or volunteers within the setting, which may include an allegation of abuse.
- We follow the guidance of the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership when responding to any complaint that a member of staff or volunteer within the setting, or anyone living or working on the premises occupied by the setting, has abused a child.
- An allegation may relate to a person who works with children who has:
 - behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child
 - possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child
 - behaved in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children
 - behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children

- We ensure that all staff and volunteers know how to raise concerns about a member of staff or volunteer within the setting. We respond to any concerns raised by staff and volunteers, who know how to escalate their concerns if they are not satisfied with our response.
- Where a staff member feels unable to raise an issue with their employer, or feels that their genuine concerns are not being addressed, they should use the other channels open to them:
 - NSPCC whistleblowing advice line is available. Staff can call 0800 0280285 – 08:00 to 20:00, Monday to Friday and 09:00 to 18:00 at weekends. The email address is: help@nspcc.org.uk.
 - Alternatively, staff can write to: National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC), Weston House, 42 Curtain Road, London EC2A 3NH.
 - Ofsted provides guidance on how to make complaints about a provider: Complaints procedure - Ofsted - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).
 - -General guidance on whistleblowing can be found via: <https://www.gov.uk/whistleblowing>.
- We respond to any disclosure by children or staff that abuse by a member of staff or volunteer within the setting, or anyone living or working on the premises occupied by the setting, may have taken, or is taking place, by first recording the details of any such alleged incident.
- We refer any such complaint immediately to the **Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)** to investigate.
They will:
 - provide advice and guidance on whether the LADO threshold is met.
This is to manage individual allegations of harm and abuse made against staff or volunteers who work with children

- oversee and coordinate multi agency involvement.
This is to ensure relevant information sharing. Providing a timely, fair and reasonable outcome for the child and person against whom an allegation is made
- identify practical steps that can be taken to improve organisational safeguarding. This is to minimise the risk of further incidences of abuse
- provide reports to Our Safeguarding Children Partnership (OSCP) for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly on the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements

The LADO should also be informed within one working day of all allegations that come to an employer's attention, or that are made directly to the police.

- If an organisation removes an individual working in a childcare setting (paid or unpaid), because the person poses a risk of harm to children, the organisation must make a referral to the [Disclosure and Barring Service](#).
 - It is an offence to fail to make a referral without good reason.
 - For further guidance on safe working with children, please refer to the following documents:
- We also report any such alleged incident to Ofsted, as well as what measures we have taken. We are aware that it is an offence not to do this.
 - We co-operate entirely with any investigation carried out by children's social care in conjunction with the police.
 - Where the management team and children's social care agree it is appropriate in the circumstances, the member of staff or volunteer will be suspended for the duration of the investigation. This is not an indication of admission that the alleged incident has taken place, but is to protect the staff, as well as children and families throughout the process.

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.

Key commitment 3

We are committed to promoting awareness of child abuse issues throughout our training and learning programmes for adults. We are also committed to empowering young 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 and neglect and that they are aware of the local authority guidelines for making referrals.
- The designated Officers receive training in accordance with that recommended by the Local Safeguarding Partnership.
- We ensure that all staff know the procedures for reporting and recording any concerns they may have about the provision.

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 visible to others. Volunteers and visitors are not left alone in the wet area/toilet area of the setting.

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 Children Partnership.

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 care worker in relation to the setting's designated role and tasks in supporting that child and their family, subsequent to any investigation.
- 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 Children Partnership.

Legal framework

Primary legislation

- Children Act (1989 s47)
- Protection of Children Act (1999)
- Data Protection Act (1998)
- The Children Act (Every Child Matters) (2004)
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2006)
- Childcare Act 2006

Secondary legislation

- Sexual Offences Act (2003)
- Criminal Justice and Court Services Act (2000)
- Equalities Act (2010)
- Data Protection Act (1998) Non Statutory Guidance
- Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations 2009
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Serious Crime Act 2015

Further guidance

- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)
- What to do if you're Worried a Child is Being Abused (DfE 2015))
- Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families (DoH 2000)
- The Common Assessment Framework for Children and Young People: A Guide for Practitioners (CWDC 2010)
- Statutory guidance on making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under section 11 of the Children Act 2004 (HMG 2007)
- Information Sharing: Guidance for Practitioners providing Safeguarding Services (DfE 2015)
- Disclosure and Barring Service: www.gov.uk/disclosure-barring-service-check
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2015)

This policy was adopted by

On

Date to be reviewed

Signed on behalf of the provider

Name of signatory

Chair/Secretary of the committee

Jumbles Day Nursery

_____ (date)

_____ (date)
