

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Introduction

Sawston Nursery fully recognises the responsibility to have arrangements in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children.

Our policy applies to all staff, paid and unpaid, working in the setting, including volunteers, all of whom have a vital role in safeguarding children. Concerned parents may also contact the setting's Designated Person/s for Child Protection.

This policy sets out how the setting complies with statutory responsibilities relating to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children who attend the setting. The policy will be reviewed regularly, annually as a minimum.

We recognise that high self-esteem, confidence, supportive friends and good lines of communication with a trusted adult help to protect children. The setting will therefore:

- Establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk, and are actively listened to.
- Ensure children know that there are adults in the setting whom they can approach if they feel worried or in difficulty.

We will follow Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board (CPSCB) procedures. The setting has regard for Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 and What to Do if You are Worried a Child is Being Abused 2015 (Department for Education).

The Designated Persons for Child Protection can be contacted via telephone or email at Sawston Nursery.

Tina, Emma and Michelle

Our setting will:

- Ensure a DP is available at all times when the setting is open, and where possible on site at all times (to be able to access relevant records and take the necessary action).
- Ensure there are contingency arrangements should the Designated Person not be available (another Designated Person will be on site).
- Ensure that all DPs in the setting refresh their training every two years. In addition to the formal training DPs knowledge and skills will be refreshed regularly and at least annually. This may be via the DP Knowledge Hub, Child Protection

Information Networks (CPINS) and the Early Years Safeguarding Conference or Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board (CPSCB) training.

- Recognise the importance of the role of the Designated Person and ensure she has the time and training to undertake their duties.
- Ensure that the Designated Person knows how to contact the Early Help Hub and knows how to make a referral to social care.

The roles of staff and management

The setting will ensure every member of staff knows:

- The names of the Designated Persons and what their role includes.
- How to record and pass on concerns about a child.
- That they have an individual responsibility for referring child protection concerns to relevant agencies and within the timescales set out in CPSCB procedures if there is no DP present and/or they feel the child remains at risk of harm.

All staff and volunteers will receive a safeguarding briefing at induction. All committee members will undertake a safeguarding briefing upon election. All staff, volunteers and committee members will receive regular updates on safeguarding (at least annually).

The setting will ensure that all staff attend basic child protection training every three years as a minimum and within 6 weeks of starting work at the setting. Training will contain details of the local safeguarding procedures within Cambridgeshire and enable staff to identify signs of possible abuse and neglect at the earliest opportunity and to respond to these in a timely and appropriate way.

Signs and Indicators may include:

- Significant changes in children's behaviour.
- Deterioration in children's general well-being.
- Unexplained bruising, marks, injuries or other signs of abuse or neglect.
- Children's comments during their play or otherwise which give cause for concern.
- Pattern of absences or frequent absences.
- Any other reasons to suspect neglect or abuse outside the setting for example in the child's home.
- Inappropriate behaviour displayed by other members of staff or any other person working with the children.

Liaison with other agencies

The setting will:

- Work to develop effective links with relevant services to promote the safety and welfare of all children.
- Co-operate as required, in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, with key agencies in their enquiries regarding child protection matters including

attendance and providing written reports at child protection conferences and core groups.

- Notify the relevant Social Care Unit immediately if there is an unexplained absence or there is any change in circumstances to a child who is subject to a Child Protection Plan.
- Any enquiries received where it is not clear whether there are safeguarding issues or risks will be passed through to the Multi Agency Safeguarding team.

Record keeping

The setting will keep clear, detailed written records of concerns about children's welfare using the Log of Concern Form. Records will be kept in individual child welfare files. Records will be stored securely and confidentially.

Parents do not have an automatic right to access child welfare records and consideration will be given as to what the consequences of information sharing might be (in line with Information Sharing Guidance, 2018). Unless it would place the child at risk of significant harm, parents will be informed that a Log of Concern Form has been completed, where it will be stored and what will happen to it when the child leaves the setting.

When a child leaves or moves to another setting.

Their individual child welfare file will be transferred to the receiving school or setting using the following protocol:

- The file will be marked 'Confidential, Addressee Only' and sent to the Designated Person, if known, of the receiving setting/school. The file will be delivered by hand if possible; otherwise sent by delivery that can be tracked and signed for.
- The setting will contact the receiving setting/school by telephone to make them aware that there is a child welfare file and, once sent, ask them to confirm as soon as possible that they have received the file. The setting will keep a record that the file has been received in order to be able to identify its location.
- Parents will be made aware that child welfare records will be transferred, unless this would place the child at risk of acute harm.
- The setting will not keep a copy of transferred records, unless there are younger siblings who there are similar concerns about, but will keep a record of the current file location and date the file was transferred.
- If individual child welfare files cannot be transferred for any reason, the setting will archive them for 25 years from the child's date of birth*.
- All actions and decisions will be led by what is considered to be in the best interests of the child.

Confidentiality and information sharing

Information sharing is essential for effective safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.

The DP will read and follow the the Department for Education (DfE) Guidance 'Information sharing - Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers' - July 2018

Fears about sharing information will not be allowed to stand in the way of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children at risk of abuse or neglect. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 do not prevent, or limit, the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children and young people safe:

- 'information will be shared legally without consent, if the DP or a member of staff is unable to or cannot be reasonably expected to gain consent from the individual, or if to gain consent could place a child at risk.'
- 'relevant personal information will be shared lawfully if it is to keep a child or individual at risk safe from neglect or physical, emotional or mental harm, or if it is protecting their physical, mental, or emotional well-being.'

(Information sharing, July 2018, Page 5)

What information will be shared?

When taking decisions about what information to share, the DP will consider how much information they need to release and the impact of disclosing information on the information subject and any third parties. Information should be proportionate to the need and level of risk.

Only information that is relevant to the purposes will be shared with those who need it. This allows others to do their job effectively and make informed decisions.

Information sharing decisions must be recorded, whether or not the decision is taken to share. If the decision is to share, reasons should be cited including what information has been shared and with whom. If the decision is not to share, the DP will record the reasons for this decision and discuss them with the person requesting the information.

If a child discloses information that may indicate that they are at risk of abuse or neglect, the staff member will be clear that they cannot promise to keep the information a secret. The staff member will be honest to the child and explain that it will be necessary to tell someone else in order to help them and to keep them safe.

Communication with Parents

The setting will:

- Undertake appropriate discussion with parents prior to involvement of another agency, unless the circumstances may put the child at further risk of harm. If in any doubt, staff will seek advice from Social Care as required.
- Ensure that all parents/carers have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the setting and staff for safeguarding and child protection by ensuring that they receive a copy of this policy when registering their child at the setting.
- Record on the log of concern form what discussions have taken place with parents and if a decision was made not to discuss the matter with parents, the reason why not (circumstances may include if the DP is unable to or cannot be reasonably expected to gain consent from the individual, or if gaining consent could place a child at risk of harm such as potential physical or sexual abuse).

Supporting Children

We recognise that children who are abused or witness abuse may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth and trust those around them. Some children may adopt inappropriate or abusive behaviours and that these children may be referred on for appropriate support and intervention.

The setting will support children through:

- Activities to encourage self-esteem, self-motivation and resilience.
- An ethos that actively promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment that values people.
- A behaviour policy aimed at supporting all children. All staff will agree on a consistent approach, which focuses on the behaviour of the child but does not damage the child's sense of self-worth. The setting will ensure that the child knows that some behaviour is unacceptable, but she/he is valued and not to be blamed for any abuse which has occurred.
- Liaison with other agencies which support the child and family such as Social Care and District Teams.
- A commitment to develop partnerships with parents.
- Recognition that children living in a home environment where there is domestic abuse/violence, mental ill-health or substance misuse may be vulnerable and in need of support and protection.
- Monitoring children's welfare, keeping records and seeking advice or making a referral to other agencies, e.g. Social Care, when necessary.

Children of Parents/Carers misusing Drugs and/or Alcohol

Misuse of drugs and/or alcohol is strongly associated with the risk of significant harm to children, particularly when combined with other features such as domestic violence.

If the setting has concerns about drug and/or alcohol abuse by a child's parents/carers they will follow appropriate procedures. This is particularly important if the following factors are present:

- Use of the family resources to finance the parent's dependency, characterised by inadequate food, heat and clothing for the children
- Children exposed to unsuitable caregivers or visitors, e.g. customers or dealers
- The effects of drugs and/or alcohol leading to an inappropriate display of sexual and/or aggressive behaviour
- Chaotic drug and/or alcohol use leading to emotional unavailability, irrational behaviour and reduced parental vigilance
- Disturbed moods as a result of withdrawal symptoms or dependency
- Unsafe storage of drugs and/or alcohol or injecting equipment
- Drugs and/or alcohol having an adverse impact on the growth and development of the unborn child.

Domestic Abuse is defined as: *"any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse: Psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional". (Home Office, 2013)*

The setting recognises that where there is Domestic Abuse in a family, the children/young person will always be affected; the longer the violence continues, the greater the risk of significant and enduring harm, which they may carry with them into their adult life and relationships. DA can also affect children in their personal relationships as well as in the context of home life.

The setting will follow the procedures outlined in this policy if Domestic Abuse concerns arise. The DP will monitor vigilantly the welfare of children living in DA households. Offer support to them and their parents/carers and contribute to any Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) safety plan as required.

Summary: Domestic Abuse

Where there are concerns regarding Domestic Abuse, the member of staff must log the concern and pass to the Designated Person who will seek advice from the relevant agencies and follow child protection procedures.

Children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)

We recognise that, statistically, children with additional needs, special educational needs, emotional and behavioural difficulties and disabilities are most vulnerable to abuse. Setting staff who deal with children with complex and multiple disabilities and/or emotional and behavioural problems should be particularly sensitive to indicators of abuse.

Children with communication difficulties are also vulnerable to abuse because they are unable to express themselves to others. Instead such children will often exhibit changes in behaviour or signs and indicators of abuse. Staff will be trained to recognise these indicators.

Where necessary, the setting will seek advice from other professionals and specialist services and provide additional training to staff in the use of Makaton, PECS or other communication systems.

Prevention of Radicalisation

In 2010 the Government published the Prevent Strategy. This highlighted the need to safeguard children, young people and families from violent extremism and radicalisation.

The setting recognises that children and young people are vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation and that protecting children from this risk forms part of the setting's safeguarding procedures. The Prevent Duty, Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers, DfE (June 2015) will be followed.

Staff are required to be alerted to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate they need help or protection. The committee will ensure that all staff have undertaken Prevent online training.

See also 'The Prevent Duty, Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers', DfE (June 2015), and 'Revised Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales,' HM Government, (July 2015).

The Prevent Duty Officer at Sawston Nursery is Tina

Children at Risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even

if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. (Child Sexual Exploitation, Definition and Guide: DFE, 2017)

Sexual exploitation can take many different forms from the seemingly 'consensual' relationship to serious organised crime involving gangs and groups. Potential indicators of sexual exploitation will be addressed within staff training, including raising awareness with staff that some young people who are being sexually exploited do not show any external signs of abuse and may not recognise it as abuse. Staff will follow the procedures outlined in this policy if concerns of child sexual exploitation arise.

Children at Risk of Criminal Exploitation

Criminal exploitation of children is a form of harm that is a typical feature of county lines activity. Drug networks or gangs exploit children and young people to carry drugs and money from urban areas to suburban and rural areas. Exploitation can occur even if activity appears to be consensual.

The setting will address indicators of child criminal exploitation with staff through training. Staff will follow the procedures outlined in this policy if concerns of criminal exploitation arise.

Children at risk of 'Honour- Based' Violence including Female Genital Mutilation

So called 'honour-based' violence encompasses incidents which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community, including breast ironing, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage. The setting takes these concerns seriously and staff are made aware of the possible signs and indicators that may alert them to the possibility of HBV through training. Staff are required to treat all forms of HBV as abuse and follow the procedures outlined in this policy.

FGM is a procedure involving the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs. FGM is illegal in the UK. Any indication that a child is at risk of FGM, where FGM is suspected, or where the woman is over 18, will be dealt with under the child protection procedures outlined in this policy. Staff will report concerns to the DP, who will make appropriate and timely referrals to social care. In these cases, parents will not be informed before seeking advice and the case will still be referred to social care even if it is against the child or young person's wishes. The Multi agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation, 2020 will be followed.

In accordance with the Female Genital Mutilation Act, it is a statutory duty for professionals to report 'known' cases of FGM in under-18s, which they identify in the course of their professional work to the police.

Breast Ironing

Breast ironing also known as 'Breast Flattening' is the process whereby young pubescent girls breasts are ironed, massaged and/or pounded down through the use of hard or heated objects in order for the breasts to disappear or delay the development of the breasts entirely.

It is believed that by carrying out this act, young girls will be protected from harassment, rape, abduction, and early forced marriage and therefore be kept in education. Much like FGM, Breast Ironing is a harmful cultural practice and is child abuse and is classified as physical abuse.

Often the abuser thinks they are doing something good for their daughter by delaying the effects of puberty so that she can continue education rather than marry.

Breast Ironing is practiced in all ten regions of Cameroon and has been reported in Benin, Ivory Coast, Chad, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Togo, Zimbabwe and Guinea Conakry.

The United Nations states that Breast Ironing affects 3.8 million women around the world and has been identified as one of the five under reported crimes relating to gender based violence.

There is no specific law within the UK around Breast Ironing; however, it is a form of physical abuse.

Where settings have a concern about a child in relation to breast ironing, they must contact children's social care on 0345 045 5203.

Children who have Family Members in Prison

The setting is committed to supporting children and young people who have a parent or close relative in prison and will work with the family to find the best ways of supporting the child.

The setting recognises that children with family members in prison are at risk of poor outcomes including poverty, stigma, isolation, poor mental health and poor attendance.

The setting will treat information shared by the family in confidence and it will be shared on a 'need to know' basis.

The setting will work with the family and the child to minimise the risk of the child not achieving their full potential.

Privately Fostered Children

Private fostering is when a child under the age of 16, (under 18 if disabled) is provided with care and accommodation by a person who is not a parent, person with parental responsibility for them or relative in their own home for 28 days or more.

The setting will follow the mandatory duty to inform the local authority of any 'Private Fostering' arrangements.

Young Carers

The setting recognises that children who are living in a home environment which requires them to act as a young carer for a family member or a friend, who is ill, disabled or misuses drugs or alcohol can increase their vulnerability and that they may need additional support and protection.

The setting will: seek to identify young carers; offer additional support internally; signpost to external agencies; be particularly vigilant to the welfare of young carers and follow the procedures outlined in this policy, referring to Early Help or Social Care as required if concerns arise.

Online Safety

It is important that children and young people receive consistent messages about the safe use of technology and are able to recognise and manage the risks posed in both the real and the virtual world.

Terms such as 'e-safety', 'online', 'communication technologies' and 'digital technologies' refer to all fixed and mobile technologies that adults and children may encounter, now and in the future, which allow them access to content and communications that could raise issues or pose risks to their well-being.

The issues can be categorised into three areas of risk:

- **Content** – being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful material
- **Contact** – being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users
- **Conduct** – personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm

Best practice:

- **Whole setting approach** – staff recognise and are aware of e-safety issues and the management team make online safety a priority; online safety.
- **Policies** – online safety policies and procedures are in place and implemented.

- **Monitoring and evaluation** – risk assessment is taken seriously and used to promote online safety. There are appropriate filters and monitoring systems in place to protect children from harmful online material.
- **Management of Personal Data** – data is managed securely and in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act.

Promoting a protective ethos

The setting will create an ethos in which children feel secure, their viewpoints are valued, they are encouraged to talk and they are listened to. This will be achieved in the following ways:

- All staff, including the Designated Persons, are trained regularly to ensure skills and knowledge are up-to-date.
- Staff know how to respond to child protection concerns.
- Contribution to an inter-agency approach to child protection by working effectively and supportively with other agencies.
- Raising children's awareness and actively promoting self-esteem building, so that children have a range of strategies and contacts to ensure their safety.
- Using personal safety programmes, such as Protective Behaviours, NSPCC PANTS campaign and the Early Years Service 'Children's Safety Matters' training and resources.
- Working with parents to build an understanding of the setting's responsibility to the welfare of the children.
- Ensuring the relevant policies are in place, i.e. the use of mobile phones and cameras, behaviour management, intimate care, whistle-blowing, social networking.
- Being vigilant to the inappropriate behaviour of staff or adults working with children and ensuring that all staff and volunteers know the allegations procedure.
- Staff acting as positive role models to children and young people.
- Ensuring staff are aware of the need to maintain appropriate and professional boundaries in their relationships with children and parents/carers.

Preventing unsuitable people from working with children and young people

The setting has a duty to ensure that people looking after children are suitable to fulfil the requirements for their role. The setting will follow safer recruitment practices including verifying qualifications and ensuring appropriate DBS and reference checks are undertaken. The setting will not allow people, whose suitability has not been checked, to have unsupervised contact with children.

Summary: Suitability to work with children

Staff are expected to disclose any convictions, cautions, court orders, reprimands and warnings which may affect their suitability to work with children (whether received before or during their employment at the setting).

Whistleblowing

The setting has a separate whistle-blowing policy, which aims to help and protect both staff and children by:

- Preventing a problem getting worse;
- Safeguarding children and young people;
- Reducing the potential risks to others.

The earlier a concern is raised, the easier and sooner it is possible for the setting to take action.

The responsibility for expressing concerns about unacceptable practice or behaviour rests with all staff, students and volunteers.

The setting will ensure that any disciplinary proceedings against staff relating to child protection matters are concluded in full even when the member of staff is no longer employed at the setting and that notification of any concerns is made to the relevant agencies, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and included in references where applicable. For further information, refer to the setting's safer recruitment policy.

Management safeguarding responsibilities

The committee fully recognises their responsibilities with regard to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. They will:

- Designate a committee member (where applicable) for safeguarding (a 'Safeguarding Officer') who will monitor the setting's child protection policy and practice and champion good practice in relation to child protection and safeguarding.
- The Designated committee member for safeguarding is **Vivian Rowell** who is also the chairperson for the Nursery.
- Ensure that this policy is annually reviewed in conjunction with the setting's Designated Person/s.

Updated November 2020