

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

As an Ofsted regulated nursery, we comply with the local child Safeguarding procedures, and it is our duty to record and report to children services any concerns regarding the possible abuse of children in our care. Child protection is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. It refers to the activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm. As an Early Years setting, we aim to keep children safe by adopting the highest possible standards and taking all reasonable steps to protect children from harm. Safeguarding is about more than child protection. Child Protection is specifically about protecting children and young people from suspected abuse and neglect. Safeguarding is much wider than child protection.

Our prime responsibility is the welfare and well-being of children in our care. As such it is our duty to the children, parents/carers, and staff to act quickly and responsibly in any instance that may come to our attention. All staff will work as part of a multi-agency team where needed in the best interest of the child.

The Legal framework for this policy

- Children act (2004/1989)
- Working together to safeguard children (2018 / 2020)
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2006)
- Counter-Terrorism Act and Security Act (2015)
- Multi-Agency Practise Guidelines
- Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003
- Serious Crime Act 2015
- Children and Social Work Act 2017
- The Prevent Duty 2015
- Data Protection 2018

Our Aim

It is our aim to ensure that all the children receive the highest level of care, provision, and education.

The health, safety, and welfare of all our children are of paramount importance to all the adults who work in our nursery. Our children have the **right** to protection, regardless of age, gender, race, culture, background, or disability. Children have the right to be safe within the nursery.

We are committed to:

- Building a "culture of safety" in which children are protected from abuse and harm in all areas of its service delivery.
- Responding promptly and appropriately to all incidents 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"

- Promoting awareness of child abuse issues throughout its training and learning programmes for adults
- Empowering young children, through early childhood curriculum, promoting their rights to be strong, resilient, and listened to.
- Ensuring that all staff are alert to the signs and understand what is meant by safeguarding and are aware of the different ways in which children can be harmed
- Ensuring all a robust training system, in which all staff are confident in the policies and procedures relating to the safeguarding and welfare of the children

It is the policy of the nursery to provide a secure and safe environment for all children from abuse. The nursery will therefore not allow an adult to be left alone who has not received their enhanced DBS check clearance and **all** our staff will receive updated and relevant safeguarding training as part of their induction and as refresher training after their 3-month probation.

We abide by Ofsted requirements in respect of references and Disclosure and Baring Services checks for all staff and volunteers to ensure that disqualified person or unsuitable person has any access or contact with the children.

We know how important staff ratios are and ensure that we follow the legal requirements for the minimum numbers of staff present with the children at any time as set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework.

The nursery aims to:

- Keep the child at the centre of all we do
- Ensure staff are trained right from induction to understand the child protection and safeguarding policy and procedures, are alert to identify possible signs of abuse (including the signs known as softer 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
- Be aware of the increased vulnerability of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and other vulnerable or isolated families and children
- 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, including thorough annual safeguarding newsletters and updates
- Make any child protection referrals in a timely way, sharing relevant information as necessary in line with procedures set out by Surrey Children's Services Duty Team.

- 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
- Keep the setting safe online using appropriate filters, checks and safeguards, monitoring access at all times
- Ensure that children are never placed at risk while in the charge of nursery staff
- Identify changes in staff behaviour and act on these as per the Behaviour Policy
- 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 East Surrey Children's Services Duty Team.

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 and support them to learn how to keep themselves safe.

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Caterham social services team - [01883 347551](tel:01883347551)
- Surrey social services team - [0300 4701900](tel:03004701900)
- Surrey's out of hours social services team - [01483 517898](tel:01483517898)
- Ofsted - [0300 123 1231](tel:03001231231)
- NSPCC - [0808 800 5000](tel:08088005000)

If at any time you have a safeguarding concern or wish to discuss this further please speak to Designated Safeguarding Lead, Louise Hurley.