



## **Safeguarding Policy**

**Policy Created: 17/05/2025**

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis (or as required) as a reflection of my commitment to safeguarding children and their families. This will be in addition to ongoing reflection, review and update of my practice which includes ongoing training and professional development.

### **My commitment to Safeguarding Children**

As a childminder I am the safeguarding lead in my setting. I always consider the needs of the children in my care to be paramount. Therefore, my primary responsibility will always be to the child. I also ensure that any person I work with in my home has a duty to safeguard children and report bad practice or abuse if they suspect it.

I ensure my policies are in line with the EYFS, Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements and other relevant legislation.

This safeguarding policy and my accompanying child protection procedures are outlined in detail in my approach to safeguarding children and/or their parents/carers. These are underpinned by the following principles:

- The children in my care and their health, development, safety, security, welfare and well-being are my number one priority
- The bond between a parent and child is fundamentally important to their wellbeing and I aim to support families to strengthen this bond.

Given the above points I aim to provide support and assistance in strengthening the bond between the child and their parent/carer in any way I can. With this in mind, I view it as my responsibility to identify and act on any concerns for both children and/or their parents/carers across the entire safeguarding spectrum of needs - from early, low-level support to targeted interventions, through to child protection.

### **Your responsibility as a parent/carer:**

To support the safeguarding of children in my setting your responsibilities are to:

- Inform me of any changes in the child's life that could significantly affect their behaviour
- Inform me of any existing injuries or incidents so that I can record them

### **What the EYFS states:**

“Providers must be alert to any issues of concern in the child's life at home or elsewhere. Providers must have and implement a policy, and procedures, to safeguard children. These should be in line with the guidance and procedures of relevant local safeguarding partners (LSP). The safeguarding policy and procedures must include an explanation of the action to be taken when there are safeguarding concerns about a child and in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff, and cover the use of mobile phones and cameras in the setting.”

Page 16 of the Statutory Framework for the EYFS 2021:3.4

### **What Ofsted state:**

Safeguarding is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development
- Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

### **My responsibility as a Safeguarding Lead**

#### **Reporting:**

- I will record any cause for concern and report it to the appropriate person in line with my local safeguarding Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) procedures.
- In the event of a serious accident or injury or death I will notify the LSP (local safeguarding partnership), my insurer and any advice given will be followed.
- I will update my safeguarding training regularly and at least every three years.

**My family and assistants:**

- I will ensure that every person over the age of 16 in my home and anyone in regular unsupervised contact with children in my care has an up to date DBS check.
- Any employees will be required to undergo DBS checks, Local authority checks and submit references to me as well as receiving full safeguarding training.

**Looking out for signs of abuse:**

I will be alert to the signs of abuse in all its forms. This includes (but is not limited to):

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect
- Bullying (including online bullying)
- Peer on peer abuse
- Racist, transphobic, homophobic abuse
- Disability-based abuse
- Gender-based violence
- Radicalisation and extremist behaviour
- Sexual exploitation and trafficking
- Modern slavery
- Honour-based abuse (including female genital mutilation and forced marriage)
- Substance misuse
- Domestic violence
- Fake illness

I will ensure that no one in my home is under the influence of drugs or alcohol that could affect their ability to care for children.

I will not release a child from my home into the care of an adult I suspect is under the influence of drugs or alcohol. In this situation, I will follow my emergency contact procedures and if no one is available to collect the child I will contact the local authority social services team and follow their advice.

**What I will pay particular attention to:**

- Changes in behaviour
- A significant change for the worse in a child's overall wellbeing
- Unexplained bruising or marks that could indicate abuse or neglect
- Any concerning comments
- Another member of staff who may be displaying inappropriate behaviour towards a child or children in their care

- Any other concerns I may have about abuse occurring in the child's home including regular non-attendance

In any of these instances, if I have cause for concern, I will contact the local authority MASH team in which the child is resident, and will follow their advice.

**If an allegation is made against me or a family member or employee:**

I must notify the local authority designated officer (LADO) and immediately about any allegations of abuse that is alleged to have taken place while a child was in my care involving any member of my family, an employee or other adult or child who has been in contact with children in my home.

**What I will do if...**

**I suspect a child is being abused:**

I will immediately report this to social services and the police if appropriate. In these circumstances, I will give all the information required to the relevant authority, including any confidential information that may be appropriate.

If a child tells me they or another child are being abused I will listen, encourage them to speak, take them seriously, explain clearly what I am going to do next and then note down as clearly as possible their words and details of anyone else who was present. I won't prompt the child to speak or ask them to repeat themselves. I will not investigate any allegations myself. I will immediately report to the local authority MASH team (or equivalent), and follow their advice.

**I am aware of private fostering arrangements:**

If I know a child in my care is subject to a private fostering arrangement I have a legal duty to report it to Oxfordshire county council. I will contact them on **03450507666**. Social care will then make their own checks on the carers and parents.

**I suspect a child or parent/carer is at risk from radicalisation:**

I will contact the national police Prevent advice line to seek advice for anyone I suspect is vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. I will also ensure actively assess the risk of children in my setting being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology.

## **Use of mobile phones, cameras and other digital devices with cameras**

I am registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) as a data controller. I will use my mobile phone or other digital devices (including tablet or laptop) during the working day in certain circumstances. My devices are password protected and stored safely to minimise the risk of being lost or stolen.

### **What I will do:**

- Make sure I am contactable in the event of an emergency
- Take necessary phone calls to do with my business
- Use an app for secure messaging, taking photographs to help with observations and recording children's progress.
- Store emergency contact details on my phone so they are easy to access when I am out
- Use my camera and my phone camera to take photos of children in my care which I may use to create displays at my home or to send to parents to show a child's progress. If I wish to use any photographs for any marketing or other purposes I will seek written parental permission first.
- Ensure that any photograph taken of a child in my care is appropriate in terms of their dress and activity.
- Ensure that any photos stored on my devices for work purposes are properly password protected and they are deleted when not required.
- Printing will take place only when strictly necessary using a dedicated printer or photo printing service

## **Other people's use of mobile phones or other devices with cameras**

- Visitors to my home (including parents) will not be allowed to take photographs of the children in my care.
- I may need to share photographs with my childminder agency, local authority staff, the local safeguarding partnership.
- If an older child (my own or a cared-for child) brings a mobile phone to my home I will make it clear that the phone is only to be used for emergency calls / texts while other children are present and ask that it be left in the child's bag or a visible location.
- I will be alert to people including parents and other childminders taking photos of children in my care when I am out in a group or in public. I will ensure that no person

without prior permission takes photos which include the children in my care.

### **Documents I have read and referred to:**

- Working together to safeguard children 2018
- Keeping children safe in Education 2021
- EYFS
- [Protecting Children from radicalisation \(the Prevent Duty\)](#)
- [Child sexual exploitation: definition and a guide for practitioners, local leaders and decision makers working to protect children from child sexual exploitation \(February 2017\)](#)

### **My Safeguarding Certificates & Courses I have completed:**

- Full Paediatric First Aid Course
- Anti-Racism in Early Years
- Recognising and Preventing FGM
- Level 2: Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect
- Level 2: Safeguarding Children
- Identifying and responding to intra-familial child sexual abuse
- Level 3: Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Prevent Awareness Course

### **Useful contacts**

- My local authority: Oxfordshire County Council
- MASH team contact details: Social & Healthcare Team Oxford Council, New Rd, Oxford, OX1 1ND - 03450507666
- LADO contact details: 01865810603 - lado.safeguardingchildren@oxfordshire.gov.uk
- Department for Education concerns relating to extremism telephone helpline: 02073407264 - counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk
- Local social services duty social number: 03450507666
- Morten Michel Insurance: 03300589861
- SCA Childminding agency phone number: 01728746970

I live in **Oxfordshire** and the MASH contact details are: Social & Healthcare Team Oxford Council, New Rd, Oxford, OX1 1ND - 03450507666