

Stanton Drew & Pensford Preschool & Forest Club

Safeguarding & Child protection Policy

We believe that children have the right to be free from fear and abuse. It is our responsibility as service providers, to record and report any concerns regarding the suspected abuse of children/young people. It is the responsibility of all staff to be aware of our Safeguarding Procedure and local area safeguarding protocol.

What is safeguarding

- 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

What is child protection

Part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Our designated member of staff, who is our liaison person for child protection, is Melissa Diaz. This person will be responsible for liaising with social services, the Bath & North East Somerset Community Safety & Safeguarding Partnership (BCSSP) , Local Area Designated Officer (LADO) and Ofsted in any child protection matter.

Stanton Drew & Pensford Preschool & Forest Club

Safeguarding & Child protection Policy

The preschool's safeguarding procedures comply with all relevant legislation and other guidance or advice from the Bath & North East Somerset Community Safety & Safeguarding Partnership (BCSSP).

The preschool is committed to reviewing its safeguarding Policy and procedures at regular intervals as a staff team. The policy is available on the setting website, a copy is given to parents/carers at home visits and the policy regularly discussed as a staff team at meetings and agreed with the committee.

Recognising Child Abuse

Child abuse manifests itself in a variety of different ways, some overt and others much less so.

Physical Abuse: This involves hitting, shaking, throwing, burning, suffocating or any other physical harm. Deliberately causing a child's ill health also constitutes physical abuse.

Emotional Abuse: Varying degrees of emotional abuse is present in virtually all child protection incidents, but can also constitute abuse in its own right. Emotional abuse involves **persistent or severe emotional ill-treatment or torture causing, or likely to cause severe adverse effects on emotional stability of a child.** Such behavior may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless, unloved, or inadequate, or making them feel unnecessarily frightened or vulnerable

Neglect: Neglect is the persistent **failure to meet a child's basic physical, emotional or psychological needs**, such as is likely to have a severe impact on their health, development or emotional stability. Neglect may involve failing to provide adequate food, shelter or clothing for a child, or failing to adequately protect them from physical harm or ill health. Neglect can also manifest itself in a failure to meet the basic emotional needs of a child.

Stanton Drew & Pensford Preschool & Forest Club

Safeguarding & Child protection Policy

Sexual Abuse: This involves **forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware what is happening.** The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts. Showing children pornographic materials, sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways also constitutes sexual abuse.

Prevent duty

Prevent is a national programme which forms one strand of the Government's Counter Terrorism programme. It addresses all forms of dangerous extremism including both Islamist extremism and also Far right extremism. While actions inspired by Islamic State are high profile nationally and internationally the white supremacist ideology of extreme right-wing groups has also provided both the inspiration and justification for people who have committed terrorist acts. The objectives of *Prevent* are:

- To respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it;
- To prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and to ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support;
- To work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address.

Child sexual exploitation

Child sexual exploitation **is a form of sexual abuse where children are sexually exploited for money, power or status.** It can involve violent, humiliating and degrading sexual assaults. In some cases, young people are persuaded or forced into exchanging sexual activity for money, drugs, gifts, affection or status. Consent cannot be given, even where a child may believe they are voluntarily engaging in sexual activity with the person who is exploiting them. Child sexual

Stanton Drew & Pensford Preschool & Forest Club

Safeguarding & Child protection Policy

exploitation doesn't always involve physical contact and can happen online. A significant number of children who are victims of sexual exploitation go missing from home, care and education at some point.

FGM

Female genital mutilation, also sometimes referred to as female genital cutting or female circumcision, **refers to procedures that intentionally alter or cause injury to the genital organs for non-medical reasons**. There are no health benefits, it causes severe pain and significant long-term psychological and physical problems.

The practice is illegal in the UK and it is also illegal to arrange for a child to be taken abroad for FGM. Since 31 October 2015 all registered healthcare professionals and teachers in England and Wales have a mandatory duty to report FGM cases to the police.

Domestic abuse

Domestic abuse is **any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behavior, violence or abuse between people in a relationship** - 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.

Domestic abuse can seriously harm children and young people. Witnessing domestic abuse is child abuse, and teenagers can suffer domestic abuse in their relationship

Stanton Drew & Pensford Preschool & Forest Club

Safeguarding & Child protection Policy

Staff Support and Training

- All staff, students and volunteers are carefully recruited, have verified references and for staff and regular volunteers a full and up to date Disclosure & Barring check will be carried out & annual suitability declaration completed by all staff.
- All Staff are given a full induction, covering our safeguarding and child protection policy.
- Staff are encouraged to attend future training via the local authority as and when appropriate courses are offered. Online training made available.
- All staff are issued with a 'what to do if you are worried a child is being abused' booklet from the Department of Health and 'protecting children from harm' booklet
- All staff receive regular supervisions and support in child protection issues and are provided with relevant information/guidance.
- All staff are aware of their statutory requirements in respect of the disclosure or discovery of child abuse and the procedure to follow.

Safeguarding

Every effort will be made to minimize time when members of staff are left alone with a child. If staff are alone with a child, the door of the room should be kept open and another member of staff should be informed.

Volunteer/settling parents are never left in the toilets unsupervised, if in main hall and staff member need to leave for a brief time, then volunteer/settling parent to be advised by staff member that they will be out of the main hall for a brief period

Stanton Drew & Pensford Preschool & Forest Club

Safeguarding & Child protection Policy

- **If a child makes inappropriate physical or verbal contact with a member of staff, student or volunteer this will be recorded on an Incident form.**
- Staff will never carry out personal tasks for children which they can do for themselves.
- Staff will be mindful of how and where they touch children, given their age and emotional understanding. Unnecessary or potentially inappropriate physical contact will be avoided at all times.

Dealing with Allegations

- **On discovering an allegation of abuse, the preschool leader will immediately refer the case to the local statutory child protection agencies.**
- Where actual or suspected abuse comes to the attention of staff, they will report this to the leader immediately.
- All allegations made by a child against a member of staff will be fully recorded, including any actions taken, on an Incident form.
- Staff are encouraged and supported to trust their professional judgment and if they suspect abuse has taken place, to report this.
- Full written records of all reported incidents will be produced and maintained. Information recorded will include full details of the alleged incident, details of all the parties involved, any evidence or explanations offered by interested parties, relevant dates, times and locations and any supporting information or evidence from members of staff. The preschool will demonstrate great care in distinguishing fact and opinion when recording suspected incidents of child abuse.

Stanton Drew & Pensford Preschool & Forest Club

Safeguarding & Child protection Policy

- The Leader will be responsible for ensuring that written records are dated, signed and kept confidentially.
- If an allegation of abuse is made against the Leader, the Registered Person will be informed as soon as possible. They will then assume responsibility for the situation.

Any children involved in alleged incidents will be comforted and reassured. In circumstances where a child makes an allegation or a disclosure, the member of staff concerned will:

1. Listen fully to what the child has to say
2. Make no observable judgment
3. Ask open questions that encourage the child to speak in their own words
4. Ensure the child is safe, comfortable and not left alone
5. Make no promises that cannot be kept such as promising not to tell anybody what they are being told.

The preschool will always consider the safety and welfare of a child or young person when making decisions to share information about them. Where there is a concern that the child is suffering or at risk of harm, the child's safety and welfare must be the overriding factor.

Referring Allegations to Child Protection Agencies

We adhere to the procedure set out in the Bath & North East Somerset Community Safety & Safeguarding Partnership (BCSSP). It is our duty to report any concerns we may have regarding the children in our care. This is primarily to safeguard the children.

Stanton Drew & Pensford Preschool & Forest Club

Safeguarding & Child protection Policy

In these cases:

- Contact will be made without delay, with the local social services department.
- The Leader or registered person will communicate as much information about the allegation and related incidents as is consistent with advice given by social services and the police.
- The Leader will inform the Local Area Designated Officer (LADO) of all allegations made towards anybody on the premises. The LADO will work with the Leader to discuss and agree on next steps. The LADO will be responsible for chairing strategy meetings with the police and Leader, plan and agree any investigations, maintain an information database in relation to all allegations and produce reports as required.
- At all times, the safety, protection and interests of children concerned will take precedence. The Leader and staff will work and support parents/carers as far as they are legally able.
- The preschool will assist social services and the police, as far as it is able, during any investigation of abuse or neglect. This will include disclosing written and verbal information and evidence.
- Ofsted will be informed immediately of any allegations of abuse against a member of staff, student or volunteer, or any abuse that is alleged to have taken place on the premises during a visit or outing.
- Ofsted will be informed of any allegation of harm or abuse by any person with access to the premises, living on the premises or looking after children on the premises (whether relating to harm or abuse committed on the premises or elsewhere), or any other abuse which is alleged to have taken place on the premises and the action taken in respect of these allegations. This will be done within at least 14 days of the allegations being made.

Stanton Drew & Pensford Preschool & Forest Club

Safeguarding & Child protection Policy

Contact Details

Ofsted

The Business Unit

Royal Exchange Buildings

St Anne's Square

Manchester

M2 9QX

Telephone: 0300 123 1231

Email: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk

Local Area Designated Officer (LADO)	01225396810
Social Services – Referral Team (Bath –Central)	01225 396312
Social Services – Out of Hours Duty Team	01454 615165
Police Child Protection Team	01225 842786

Stanton Drew & Pensford Preschool & Forest Club

Safeguarding & Child protection Policy

What early help means

Early help (in B&NES) provides support to children, young people and their families as soon as problems start. When a child, young person or family needs some extra support, early help is often the first response. This can be provided by the services you are already in contact with.

We will work together with you and your family to identify emerging needs and any inequalities at the earliest opportunity to ensure that help is available to support and empower you to address needs and prevent them getting worse - giving you the right help, at the right time, by the right service.

How to get early help

We recommend that you speak to a professional you might already be in contact with if you need some extra support. They may be able to complete an Early Help Assessment (EHA) to assess your needs or make a referral to another service for you.

Examples of different professionals you can speak to:

- Early Year's provider
- Health Visitor
- Schoolteacher
- School nurse
- GP

Stanton Drew & Pensford Preschool & Forest Club

Safeguarding & Child protection Policy

Early Help Assessment (EHA)

You can ask a professional to complete an EHA with you or your family. They will use the EHA form to ask you some questions to identify what is going well for you and your family and what you need help with. [Find out more about the EHA and our Integrated working team](#) on our web page, or call **01225 39 54 48** or **01225 39 53 08**. to speak to one of the team.

Early Help App

Download the free Early Help app for details of all of the different services that Bath & North East Somerset Council (including the commissioned early help targeted support services) from the Apple or Android store, or by searching for 'B&NES Early Help'.

[Download the Early Help app from the App Store](#)

[Download the Early Help app from Google Play store](#)

The app is designed for professionals, but parents and carers may also find it helpful.

Stanton Drew & Pensford Preschool & Forest Club

Safeguarding & Child protection Policy

These policies and procedures were adopted at a committee meeting of Stanton Drew and Pensford Pre-school

Held on (date)	Monitoring and reviewing as rapidly changing information
Date to be reviewed (date)	In a month time May 2023
Signed on behalf of the committee	
Name & role of signatory	
Signed on behalf of the pre-school	Melissa Diaz
Name & role of signatory	Melissa Diaz -Preschool Leader

Reviewed March 23