



## Safeguarding Policy

My responsibility as a childminder is to ensure the safety and welfare of all the children in my care in line with the procedures laid out by my local Safeguarding Children's Board.

(The Safeguarding Children Board is responsible for producing Safeguarding Children Procedures based on national guidelines set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children (Dept of Education & Skills). It monitors the effectiveness of the Procedures systematically and amends them as it becomes necessary.)

I have received training on Safeguarding Children (Child Protection) and am aware of the signs and symptoms of child abuse, physical, emotional and sexual, and those of neglect. Peer to Peer abuse and SEND (Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities.)

If I have reason to believe that any child in my care is being abused in any way I will report the matter to the MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub), Duty Social Worker for Wandsworth Borough Council and follow up my concern using the Early Help Assessment Form (EHA) within 48 hours. I am also required to contact Ofsted. Under these circumstances I will not be able to keep information relating to your child confidential, but will need to share it with Ofsted, MASH and the Police if requested.

A copy of Safeguarding Children Policy and Guidance for Wandsworth Early Years booklet is available for you to read if required. This sets out the guidelines for how I must record any incidents and disclosures and the procedures I must follow.

As a Childminder working alone I am more vulnerable to allegations of abuse being made against my family or me. I will take precautions to protect myself from this happening by:

- Ensuring all household members over 16 are DBS cleared
- Ensuring all visitors to the house sign the visitors book and do not have unsupervised access to the children under any circumstances
- Ensuring, where possible, that no workmen are in the house during minded hours, unless it is to repair an emergency service or for Health and Safety Reasons.
- Document every accident and incident that occurs whilst in my care, informing parents and requesting them to sign my records
- Noting any marks on the children when they arrive and asking parents to inform me of any accidents that have occurred whilst outside my care
- Ensuring the children are supervised at all times
- Keeping accurate records on each child and writing a daily diary

Contact: MASH (Mutli Agency Safeguarding Hub) 020 8871 6622  
Out of office hours call: 020 8871 6000



### **Allegations**

Sometimes allegations are made and this unfortunate situation cannot be avoided. I will then follow the procedure detailed below, in order to gain support and professional advice:

Contact : LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) 020 8871 7440  
Ofsted 0300 123 1231  
Childminding team 020 8871 6223

I will write a detailed record of all related incidents, including what was said and by whom, with times and dates.

I will ask any witnesses (if there were any) to also write a statement detailing the incident they witnessed and giving their contact details in case it needs to be followed up by the authorities.

### **Prevent Duty**

I am aware of the Government PREVENT strategy which aims to protect children from terrorism and radicalisation. Should identify any children who are considered to be at risk of being involved in terrorism or radicalised I will refer them to MASH

### **FGM (Female Genital Mutilation)**

The FGM Act 2003 makes it a criminal offence to:

- Carry out FGM in the UK or to take a girl abroad for the procedure
- Assist with carrying out FGM in the UK
- Assist a girl to carry out FGM on herself in the UK; or
- Assist someone from outside of the UK to carry out FGM on a UK national or permanent UK resident

Should I have concerns relating to FGM I will contact MASH

### **British Values**

I will teach the children in my care about British Values which are embedded in the Early Years Foundation Stage. The government defines British Values as:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty and personal responsibility
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those of different culture, faiths and beliefs.

### **Use of Mobile Phones/cameras/Ipads/digital equipment**

I understand that if I store personal details about other people on my computer or any digital format, I have registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for Data Protection.



The use of photos to support observations, assessment and planning and to provide a pictorial record for parents has become part of my practice. To ensure that everyone in my setting is protected I have the following procedures in place.

- Pictures are taken only by myself /assistant with written permission of parents.
- Pictures are transferred to my computer which is password protected
- I have registered with the Information Commissioner's Office for Data Protection

I will:

- Ensure that ALL visitors to my home during childminding hours are asked to turn their mobile phones/digital equipment turned off and kept in their bags.
- Ensure that any assistants working with me will leave their personal digital equipment in a safe storage area.
- Ensure my phone is kept out of reach of children.

If you have any concerns regarding this policy please discuss them with me.

### **Online Safety**

As a Childminder I offer children the opportunity to use the computer and the internet; however I have introduced a range of procedures to ensure their safety.

- \*I have a filter on my computer that blocks out most inappropriate material
- \*I do not permit the children to go onto chat rooms
- \*I check the children's emails to ensure that they are not being bullied or sending anything inappropriate
- \*I talk to the children about the websites they are using
- \*I am always nearby so can keep an eye out on what websites they are visiting
- \*I check the history on the computer regularly
- \*I discuss with the children about the importance of keeping safe on line, not forwarding on chain letters, not talking to people they don't know, not giving out personal information that could enable people to identify them, to tell me if they are worried about anything and to never arrange to meet anyone they have spoken to online.

### **Peer on Peer Abuse**

I recognise that children and young people are capable of abusing their peers. Peer on peer abuse relates to situations such as sexual exploitation, gang violence, financial abuse, coercive control and exploitative relationships. We want all children to feel safe here and, as part of our commitment to keep them safe, we regularly observe children's interactions and aim to be approachable so they will speak to us if they are concerned about any aspects of their relationships with others. Parents know they can contact us at any mutually convenient time to discuss concerns children might raise at home.



**SEND (Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities)**

As an Ofsted registered Childminder, I aim to follow the requirements of EYFS (2017) and the Childcare Register (2012) and provide an inclusive environment for ALL children and their families. I am also required to comply with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and the SEND Code of Practice 2014.

I am aware that there are additional barriers to recognising signs and symptoms of children with SEND. If I had a concern I would contact MASH

**If a Child goes missing from Education/Attendance.**

I am aware that if a child goes missing from education/attendance without a valid reason or if I had a concern I will contact MASH.

**Policy date:**

**Review date:**