



SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

The Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy is in accordance with the most recent version of the ISSRs and locally agreed inter-agency procedures, specifically in accordance with Milton Keynes local safeguarding partner guidance MK Together for dealing with any concerns about a child.

This policy is applicable to all staff and parents of children within the nursery including the Early Years Foundation Stage.

This document is available in written format upon request and a copy can also be located on the nursery's website.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and anyone can make a referral to the Milton Keynes Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

The nursery will not tolerate any form of abuse

SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY REVIEW

This policy is reviewed on an annual basis, when changes in official guidance require and following a safeguarding incident. The school will continually review this policy following updates and guidance from the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) and any statutory and local authority guidance.

Review Date: September 2024

Next Review Date: September 2025

Reviewed and approved by the Body of Persons:

Mr Simon Driver (Chair) and Mrs Hilary Pauley

Date: 1st October 2024

Mr David Pye – Chair of Governors (Safeguarding and Child Protection)

Date: 31st October 2024



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1 INTRODUCTION

The safety and well-being of all children at the nursery, including those in the Early Years Foundation Stage, is the nursery's highest priority. The nursery aims to know every child as an individual and to provide them with a secure and caring environment, so that they can develop and learn in safety. All those who come into contact with children and families in their everyday work, including practitioners who do not have a specific role in relation to safeguarding children, have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

All members of staff have a duty to act in the child's best interests at all times so that every child feels positive about themselves as an individual and is able to reach their full potential. The nursery expects respect, good manners and fair play to be shown by everyone. All children should care for and support each other.

The nursery recognises that the welfare of the child is paramount and that all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse. The nursery also understands that some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other needs.

All staff share the responsibility to ensure that the nursery provides a safe, caring, positive and stimulating environment that promotes the social, physical and moral development of the individual child.

The nursery fosters a listening environment where children are encouraged to speak to any staff member about any concerns they may have and where staff understand the importance of listening to the child and placing the child's need first.

Parents and guardians have an important role to play in supporting the nursery. The nursery encourages parents and guardians to raise any issues or worries that they may have with the nursery.

The nursery will always respond immediately if there is a concern and/or allegation of child abuse/sexual abuse/sexual harassment/neglect/exploitation or where a child is identified as being at risk. Providing early help is vital to promoting the welfare of the child. Staff are trained to be alert to any potential concerns and risks to a child's welfare. All staff are trained to immediately inform the DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead), or any one of the DDSL's (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads) if they have any concerns about a child's welfare.

Safeguarding is defined as protecting children from maltreatment (whether that is within or outside the home, including online), 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 and taking action to enable all children to have the best possible outcomes.

Contextual Safeguarding recognises that the different relationships that children and young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. Parents/carers may have little influence over these contexts and children/young people's experiences of extra familial abuse can undermine parent-child relationships.



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

The nursery's procedures for safeguarding children have regard and adhere to the following statutory and non-statutory guidance:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE, September 2024)
- KCSIE (Sep 24) Annex B: Further Information
- KSCIE (Sep 24) Annex C: Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (Dec 2023)
- Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales (Dec 2023)
- Information Sharing: Advice for Practitioners Providing Safeguarding Services to Children, Young People, Parents and Carers (July 2018).
- Levels of Need when Working with Children, Young People and their Families in Milton Keynes (MKSCB, July 2020).
- MK Together – Milton Keynes Inter-Agency Safeguarding Children Policies and Procedures
- Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 (Aug 2018)
- Safer Recruitment in Schools - Toolkit (MKC).
- DfE: Mental Health and Behaviour in Schools (Nov 2018)
- GOV UK: Promoting children and young people's emotional health and well-being (Nov '23)
- The Education (Independent Schools Standards) Regulations (2014).
- Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework (Jan 2024)
- DfE: The Use of Social Media for On-line Radicalisation.
- Working together to improve school attendance (Feb 2024)
- Children Missing in Education (Sept 2016)
- GOV UK: What to do if you're worried a child is being abused (March 2015).
- UKCIS Education Group: Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people.
- OFSTED: Review of sexual abuse in schools and colleges (June 2021).
- Teaching Regulation Agency (Teacher Misconduct: The Prohibition of Teachers, (Feb 2022)
- When to call the police, non-statutory guidance from the National Police Chief's Council (information available from main DSL (Mrs Wilson)
- Preventing and Tackling Bullying (July 2017).
- The UK Safer Internet Centre (<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/about>)
- CEOP's Thinkuknow website (www.thinkuknow.co.uk)
- The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education (England) Regulation 2019 – *Please refer to separate document: Relationships Education Policy.*

The nursery will continually review this policy following updates and guidance from the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) and any statutory and local authority guidance.

2 THE AIMS OF THIS POLICY



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- To ensure that the Proprietor, Head of EYFS and Governors fulfil their obligations in respect of the governance of safeguarding and child protection and Prevent awareness, including the conduct of an annual review of safeguarding and the effectiveness of the implementation of this policy.
- To raise awareness in all staff of their responsibilities to safeguard children, including the requirement to prevent children from being radicalised or drawn into extremism and ensure that staff are able to identify and report possible cases of abuse/neglect and children at risk.
- To provide a means of monitoring children known or thought to be at risk of harm, including the risk of radicalisation and ensure that the nursery contributes to assessments of need and support plans for those children.
- To acknowledge the need for effective and appropriate communication between all members of staff in relation to safeguarding children.
- To develop structured procedures within the nursery which all members of the nursery will follow.
- To protect children from online and offline risks, including online safety education and training, policies and procedures governing use of IT and procedures to manage any incidents which may occur; and filter and monitor online activity.
- To ensure that all staff understands the particular vulnerabilities of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) including particular vulnerability to peer-on-peer abuse
- and the need of extra pastoral support.
- To develop effective working relationships with all other agencies involved in safeguarding children.
- To provide an environment in which children feel safe, secure, valued and respected and to support the children in ways that will foster confidence, resilience and ensure they know how to approach adults if they are in difficulties.
- To ensure that all adults within the nursery, who have access to children, have been checked as to their suitability to work in the nursery.
- Raise awareness of child protection issues and equip children with the skills needed to keep themselves safe and support their mental well-being.

3 PROCEDURES

- All members of staff, part-time staff and volunteers are trained to identify and know how to respond to a child who discloses abuse, neglect and exploitation or who is possibly at risk of radicalisation and knows how to follow the procedures when sharing a concern of possible abuse, neglect and exploitation, the disclosure of abuse, neglect and exploitation or the risk of radicalisation.
All parents/carers are made aware of the nursery's responsibilities and safeguarding procedures through publication of the nursery's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.
- The nursery's Safer Recruitment Policy and related procedures include all checks on staff suitability including Barred List, Disclosure and Barring Service Enhanced Disclosures and Prohibition Order checks, as recommended by KCSIE (September 2023) and by the MKTP and in accordance with current legislation.
- All new staff will be given a copy of the following, as part of their induction into the nursery:



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- The Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy (including the names of the nursery's Designated Safeguarding Lead and the DDSLs)
- The nursery's Code of Conduct for Staff
- Keeping Children Safe in Education Part 1 and Annex B (September 2024)
- The nursery's Whistleblowing Policy.
- The nursery's Behaviour, Sanctions and Rewards Policy
- Fire and Emergency Evacuation Procedures
- Health and Safety Policy
- Mobile Phone Policy

4 RESPONSIBILITIES

The nursery understands its responsibilities to safeguard children requires that all staff share any concerns they may have about children.

4.1 The Proprietor, Head of EYFS and Governing Body

The Proprietor, Head of EYFS and Lead Safeguarding Governor facilitate a whole-nursery approach to safeguarding, ensuring that safeguarding and child protection are at the forefront of all systems, processes, and policies.

Safeguarding and Prevent responsibilities are achieved through the following:

- Comply with their duties under legislation and to ensure that there is a robust Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy in place and that the policy is reviewed annually.
- Ensure that the key activities of the main DSL and DDSL roles are included in the Job Descriptions.
- Ensure that DDSLs have additional time, funding, training, resources and supervision and support to fulfil their child welfare and safeguarding responsibilities effectively.
- Ensure there is an effective staff Code of Conduct policy in place.
- Record the efficiency with which any related duties have been discharged and ensure any deficiencies in the policy or practices are immediately rectified.
- Monitor the effectiveness of the implementation and compliance with the policy.
- Ensure that all staff are aware of the nursery's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and the procedures, follow them and know how to recognise and refer any concerns.
- Ensure that all staff knowledge and training is up to date for safeguarding and child protection and Prevent awareness training.
- Ensure that the Chair of Governors, as the lead Safeguarding Governor, liaises with the LADO and partner agencies in the event of allegations of abuse made against the Head.
- Ensure that the main DSL and DDSLs and the Safeguarding Governor contribute to inter-agency working as and when required to do so.
- Ensure that all staff know that if there is a risk of immediate serious harm to a child a referral should be made to children's social care immediately.
- Ensure that all staff know that anybody can make a referral.
- Ensure the Head of EYFS oversees the safe use of technology, all electronic devices with imaging and sharing capabilities) mobile phones and cameras etc) in the setting



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- Ensure that there are safe and effective recruitment policies in place, which adhere to KCSIE statutory guidelines (September 2023).
- Ensure that all records pertaining to safeguarding and child protection are kept securely.
- Ensure that the nursery operates appropriate filtering and monitoring systems to safeguard children online and review their effectiveness.

4.2 Designated Safeguarding Leads

- Mrs Nicola Wilson, Nursery Manager, is the main Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who understands the role as per Part 2 of KCSIE (September 2024) and understands the obligation to liaise with the local authority and work with other agencies in line with the Working Together to Safeguard Children (Dec 2023).
- The Designated Safeguarding Leads are named in Appendix 1.
- DSLs will undergo child protection training every two years, in line with advice from the Milton Keynes local safeguarding partner guidance MK Together Partnership (MKTP) and this will incorporate Prevent awareness training. The DDSLs, as well as the main DSL, will have overall responsibility for online safety at the nursery.
- The nursery recognises the important role that the DSL and DDSLs have to play and will support them with the training necessary to carry out their roles effectively. In addition to their formal training, the knowledge and skills of the DDSLs will be updated regularly and at least annually. This can be in the form of referring to the most recent version of KCSIE, bulletins from the MKTP, on the publication of new DfE guidance and other safeguarding updates and communications via meetings.
- The main DSL/DDSL will refer a child to the Milton Keynes Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in accordance with the Milton Keynes local safeguarding partner (MKTP) guidance and procedures, if there are concerns about a child's welfare and/or possible abuse, neglect and exploitation, Police (cases where a crime may have been committed) and to the Channel programme where there is a radicalisation concern.
- Allegations of abuse by a member of staff will be referred to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). A written record of the referral will be emailed to the LADO as soon as possible within the nursery day.
- An allegation of abuse by someone outside of the nursery setting will be referred by the main DSL to the Milton Keynes Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).
- The main DSL will ensure that detailed and accurate written records of concerns about a child are kept even if there is no need to make an immediate referral.

5 PROCEDURES FOR A CHILD REPORTING ABUSE, NEGLECT AND EXPLOITATION

Children who have a problem may speak to someone whom they trust. It is important that the member of staff to whom the child wishes to speak about a concern, does not promise confidentiality.

All children will be reassured that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe. A child will never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting abuse, sexual violence, or sexual harassment. Nor will they ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report or have their experience minimised.



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If there is a concern that the child is suffering or at risk from suffering significant harm, regardless of the fact they want to maintain confidentiality, the matter must be referred to main DSL who will in turn, refer the matter to the Milton Keynes Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). Parental consent is not required to make a referral when there are grounds to believe the child may be at risk of significant harm.

- If the child is only prepared to speak if absolute confidentiality is guaranteed, the member of staff should terminate the conversation at that point. It should be explained to the child that confidentiality cannot be promised. Explain to the child that the member of staff is obliged to inform the DSL.
- The adult, to whom the child has spoken, should immediately provide the DSL with a written account of what has transpired.
- If a child decides to speak to a member of staff about the fact that either he/she, or a child known to them, is being bullied, harassed, exploited, abused or neglected, the member of staff should listen to the child's account and not ask leading or detailed questions. Allow the child to tell his or her own story.

All staff to note: It is important to understand that subsequent enquiries could be prejudiced by asking detailed and/or leading questions in nursery. Defendants have been acquitted where leading questioning or inappropriate investigations have been proven.

- The DSL will refer the concern immediately to Milton Keynes Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) which will decide how the matter will be investigated or assessed.
- The DSL will liaise with and receive guidance from the Milton Keynes Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) about how best to support and monitor the child concerned through any process of investigation and about any liaison with parents, carers or other agencies involved.
- Explain to the child that only those who have a professional 'need to know' will be told and, if appropriate, measures will be set up to protect the child from retaliation and further abuse.
- Reassure the child that he or she was right to tell, and that he/she is not to blame for having being bullied or abused.
- The nursery will collaborate with MKTP in any investigations, assessments or planning processes.

Where there are evident signs of physical injury the Milton Keynes Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) must be immediately notified. In such a case, parental consent is not required to make a referral.

6 ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE AGAINST TEACHERS AND OTHER STAFF, INCLUDING SUPPLY STAFF AND CONTRACTORS

The nursery makes reference to KCSIE (Sept 24) Part 4, section one "Allegations that may meet the harms threshold" and section two "Concerns that do not meet the harm threshold" (September 2021) and the requirements of the most recent version of the Independent Schools Standards Regulations.

Any allegation received relating to an incident that may happen when an individual or organisation is using the nursery premises for the purposes of running activities for our pupils will be dealt with in line with the nursery's safeguarding policies and procedures, including informing the LADO as we would do with any safeguarding allegation.



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6.1 Allegations that may meet the harm threshold

The nursery understands that a child may make an allegation against any member of staff, including the Nursery Manager (main DSL), DDSLs, teaching and non-teaching staff, part-time, temporary, voluntary, supply staff, contractors, visiting staff such as musicians, religious ministers, sports coaches and Governors. If an allegation is made, then the member of staff receiving the allegation must inform the Case Manager, who will be the Nursery Manager and will lead any investigation, or where the Nursery Manager is the subject of an allegation, the chair of governors or proprietor. Where an allegation is against the Nursery Manager, the Nursery Manager must not be informed of the allegation prior to contact with the chair and LADO. The LADO should be informed within one working day to discuss the allegation, consider the nature, content and context of the allegation, and agree a course of action including any involvement of the Police. All discussions will be recorded in writing and the nursery will follow the procedures agreed with the LADO. GDPR will not be allowed to stand in the way of safeguarding children.

In the absence of the Nursery Manager, the member of staff must inform the Chair of Governors. Contact details for the LADO and the Chair of Governors are contained in Appendix 1.

If the allegation made is concerned with the Proprietor, the Head of EYFS, Nursery Manager or one of the DDSLs, then the member of staff receiving the allegation must inform the Chair of Governors, without informing the Nursery Manager. The Chair of Governors should immediately refer to the LADO. Should there be a conflict of interest, the LADO will be informed directly.

If the nursery finds:

that a child has been harmed, that there may be an immediate risk of harm to a child, if the situation is an emergency, children's social care should be contacted and as appropriate the police immediately in accordance with the processes set out in part one of KCSIE (September 2024).

The Nursery Manager (DSL) and DDSLs are fully aware of the local authority arrangements for managing allegations, including contact details and the information the LADO will need. Prior to contacting the LADO, the nursery may – in line with local procedures – conduct basic enquiries to establish facts that will help determine whether there is any foundation to the allegation. The DSL will refer to KCSIE (September 2023) for sample questions to aid with the basic enquiries.

The DSL/DDSLs understand and will refer to KCSIE (September 2024) for more detailed guidance on:

The initial response to an allegation

Where an initial discussion leads to no further action

Where further enquiries are required to enable a decision about how to proceed Allegations against supply teachers and all contracted staff

Governors

Suspension

Supporting those involved

Confidentiality and information sharing



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Allegation outcomes
Following a criminal investigation or prosecution
Unsubstantiated, unfounded, false or malicious accusations
Returning to work
Resignations and settlement agreements
Record keeping
References Learning lessons (expanded in 2023)
Non-recent allegations.

Contact with the LADO will be made as soon as any basic enquiries are conducted.

When an allegation is made, the nursery will not undertake its own investigations of the allegations without prior consultation with the LADO or, in the most serious cases, the Police, so as not to jeopardise statutory investigations. In borderline cases, discussions with the LADO can be held informally and without naming the nursery or individual. Discussions will be recorded in writing, and any communication with both the individual and the parents of the child/children agreed.

The nursery will consider whether the circumstances of the case warrant suspension or whether alternative arrangements should be put in place. The nursery will act in accordance with plans derived through discussions with the LADO and/or the Police when making a decision about suspension, including the views of KCSIE (Sep 2024) and WT (Dec 23)

The nursery will make every effort to maintain confidentiality and guard against unwanted publicity. These restrictions apply up to the point where the accused person is charged with an offence, or the Department for Education (DfE) and /or the Teacher Regulation Agency (TRA) publish information about an investigation or decision in a disciplinary case.

It is important to note the TRA took over the regulation of the teaching profession and the handling of misconduct hearings from the National College for Teaching and Leadership (NCTL) and is an executive agency of the DfE.

The nursery will promptly report to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) any person leaving the nursery (whether employed, contracted, a volunteer or student) whose no longer used for regulated activity or due to dismissal, non-renewal of a fixed-term contract, no longer engaging/refusing to engage a supply teacher provided by an employment agency, terminating the placement of a student teacher or other trainee, no longer using staff employed by contractors, no longer using volunteers, resignation, and voluntary withdrawal from supply teaching, contract working, a course of initial teacher training, or volunteering (or would have been, had the person not left the setting first) because he or she is considered unsuitable to work with children (that is, they have caused harm or posed a risk of harm to a child). Reports will include as much evidence about the circumstances of the case as possible. The nursery understands that failure to make a report constitutes a criminal offence. Compromise agreements cannot be used to either prevent a referral being made to the DBS when it is legally required, nor can an individual's refusal to cooperate with an investigation. The nursery will be required to keep detailed and accurate written records and preserve these for the term of the independent enquiry into child sexual abuse and at least until the accused has reached normal pension age or for 10 years from the date of the allegation if it is longer.



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The Proprietor understands the legal duty to respond to requests from the DBS for information the nursery already hold.

The nursery will consider making a referral to the Teacher Regulation Agency (TRA) for any teacher that has been dismissed (or would have been dismissed had he/she not resigned) and a Prohibition Order may be appropriate. The reasons such an order would be considered are 'unacceptable professional conduct, 'conduct that may bring the profession into disrepute' or a 'conviction, at any time, for a relevant offence'. Further guidance is published on the TRA website (Teacher Misconduct: The Prohibition of Teachers, Feb 2022).

As per the KCSIE (September 2024) guidance, the nursery will handle allegations against supply staff by taking the lead and keeping the supply agency fully informed and involved. Under no circumstances will the nursery cease to use supply staff for safeguarding reasons without involving the agency and/or other authorities.

The nursery understands its duty to confirm it has disclosed to inspectors all instances of safeguarding concerns

6.2 Concerns that do not meet the harm threshold ('low-level concerns')

The nursery is committed to create and embed a culture of openness, trust and transparency in which the nursery's values and expected behaviour as set out in the staff code of conduct are constantly lived, monitored and reinforced by all staff. This serves to enable the early identification of concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour, minimise the risk of abuse, ensure that adults working in nurseries are clear about and act within professional boundaries in accordance with the values and ethos of the nursery, and protect those working in or on behalf of nurseries from potential false allegations or misunderstandings.

These may arise from a variety of sources, including suspicion, complaint, a disclosure (by child or adult) or during vetting checks. The nursery understands that a culture should be created in which all concerns about adults are shared responsibly and with the right person, recorded and dealt with appropriately.

A low-level concern does not mean it is insignificant, a low-level concern is any concern – no matter how small, and even if no more than causing a sense of unease or a 'nagging doubt' – that an adult may have acted in a way that:

- is inconsistent with the staff code of conduct, including inappropriate contact outside of work
- does not meet the allegations threshold or is otherwise not considered serious enough to consider a referral to the LADO.

These behaviours can exist on a wide spectrum, from inadvertent to that which is ultimately intended to enable abuse. They include, for example:

- being over friendly with children
- having favourites
- taking photographs of children on their mobile phone or any other electronic device with imaging and sharing capabilities
- engaging with children on a one-to-one basis in a secluded area or behind a closed door
- using inappropriate sexualised, intimidating or offensive language; humiliating children.



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Low-level concerns about a member of staff must be reported to the Nursery Manager. Staff should feel confident to self-refer. Low-level concerns about someone employed by a supply agency or contractor should be shared with the head, the concern recorded, and their employer notified so that potential patterns of inappropriate behaviour can be identified. Should patterns be identified, the Nursery Manager/Case Manager will take appropriate action, depending on the severity of the behaviour.

Where a third party has raised the concern, the Nursery Manager will collect as much evidence as possible by speaking:

- directly to the person who raised the concern (if known)
- to the individual involved and any witnesses

The Nursery Manager will record all low-level concerns in writing. This will include:

- details of the concern
- the context in which it arose
- evidence collected by the DSL where the concern has been raised via a third party
- the decision categorising the type of behaviour
- action taken
- the rationale for decisions and action taken
- the name of the individual sharing the concerns (respecting any wish to remain anonymous as far as possible).

The nursery will refer to KCSIE (Sep 2024) as to when a low-level concern should be referred to in a reference.

6.3 Record Keeping

Records are confidential, held securely and comply with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK GDPR. They are reviewed so that potential patterns of concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour can be identified. Where such a pattern is identified, the nursery will either take action through disciplinary procedures or, if it meets the harms threshold, refer to the LADO. The nursery may also consider whether there are wider cultural issues within the nursery that enabled the inappropriate behaviour to occur and will therefore support staff where necessary, i.e., staff training. Information is kept at least until the individual leaves' employment.

For all allegations, other than those found to have been malicious or false, the following information will be kept on the file of the person accused:

- a clear and comprehensive summary of the allegation
- details of how the allegation was followed up and resolved
- a note of any action taken, and decisions reached and whether the outcome was substantiated, unsubstantiated or unfounded.
- a copy provided to the person concerned, where agreed by children's social care or the police
- a declaration on whether the information will be referred to in any future reference

Substantiated allegations will also be included in references, provided that the information is factual and does not include opinions.

7 STAFF CODE OF CONDUCT



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The nursery's staff code of conduct policy is given to all staff upon induction to the nursery. The policy is given to provide clear guidance about behaviour and acceptable actions so as not to place pupils or staff at risk of harm or of allegations of harm to a pupil.

Please refer to the separate document: Staff Code of Conduct

7.1 WHISTLEBLOWING

Whistleblowing is a mechanism by which staff can voice their concerns, made in good faith, without fear or repercussion. The nursery's Whistleblowing Policy provides for: a culture of safety and raising concerns; a culture of valuing staff and or reflective practice; procedures for reporting and handling concerns, including about poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in the school's safeguarding regime, provision for mediation and dispute resolution where necessary; training and support for staff; transparency and accountability in relation to how concerns are received and handled.

Please refer to the separate document: Whistleblowing Policy

8 CHILD-ON-CHILD ABUSE, SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT

This procedure is for dealing with abuse by one or more children against another child. All child-on-child abuse is unacceptable and will never be tolerated. Child-on-child abuse can take many forms, for example, making abusive comments, which should not be passed off as 'banter' or 'having a laugh' or 'part of growing up', engaging in abusive interactions, making abusive comments and/or engaging in activity of a sexualised nature (including sexual activity without consent, sexual violence and harassment), physical abuse, initiation ceremonies or rituals or hazing-type violence, upskirting and sexting (youth-produced sexual imagery) or any type of bullying, including online bullying, prejudice-based bullying or discriminatory bullying, as this can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours and an unsafe environment for children.

The nursery understands that sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any age and sex and within intimate personal relationships between peers. Sexual violence and sexual harassment can overlap and can take place online. When there is 'reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm' then any such abuse will be referred to the main DSL and the Milton Keynes Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) as a child protection concern.

The nursery recognises the importance that all staff must challenge any form of abusive behaviour between children. Staff are trained to recognise that children can abuse other children (including online and offline) and that all staff will be clear about the nursery's procedures with regard to child-on-child abuse, such abuse may still be taking place and is simply not being reported.

Sexting, for the purposes of this policy, is defined as the generation and/or sharing of images or videos by children under the age of 18 where such images or videos are shared with another child or children or adult via a mobile phone, tablet, laptop, computer or website or any electronic device with imaging and sharing capabilities. Sexting is classed as illegal. *Further guidance can be sourced from the DfE Searching Screening and Confiscation Advice and the UK Council Child for Internet Safety (UKCIS): Sexting in Schools and Colleges.*



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The nursery recognises the gendered nature of abuse i.e. that girls are more likely to be victims and boys more likely to be perpetrators. However, the nursery will always be clear that all child-on-child abuse is unacceptable and will be taken seriously. Staff recognise that children are capable of abusing their peers (including online) and therefore understand the importance of the nursery's policies and procedures with regard to child-on-child abuse.

Abuse that occurs online or outside of the nursery will not be downplayed and will be treated equally seriously.

Different forms of child-on-child abuse, child-on-child sexual violence and sexual harassment can be as follows:

bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying);

abuse in intimate personal relationships between peers;

physical abuse which can include hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm;

sexual violence and sexual harassment (refer to Part 5 KCSIE September 2024);

consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or videos (also known as sexting or youth-produced sexual imagery) (further guidance sourced from : UKCIS guidance: Sharing nudes and semi-nudes advice for educational settings;

causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent, such as forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party;

upskirting (see definition at 12.15 below),; and

initiation/hazing type violence and rituals.

8.1 Prevention of child-on-child abuse

The nursery recognises that child-on-child abuse can occur even with the most robust policies and support processes in place. Even if there are no reported cases of peer-on-peer abuse, such abuse may still be taking place and is simply not being reported. Therefore, the nursery encourages an environment where children can feel safe to share information about anything which worries them or causes them to feel upset. Appropriate behaviour is regularly reinforced through assemblies and circle time.

8.2 Procedures for dealing with child-on-child abuse

Staff, to whom the concerns are reported, should listen to child's concerns and offer immediate support. Staff will not dismiss anything reported to them which appears to be 'banter' or 'just growing up'. Staff should refer the child immediately to the main DSL, or, in her absence, a DDSL.

- The DSL will reassure the child that they have done nothing wrong and that it was the right thing to report. If appropriate, immediate medical treatment/advice should be sought.
- If the concerns relate to sexting, then staff must not share or copy the images with other staff members.



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The DSL will listen to the child and make a written record of the incident, identify evidence and seek witnesses. The main DSL will not guarantee confidentiality of information and will inform the child that the nursery will be speaking to inter-agency bodies and the alleged abuser(s).

- The DSL will inform parents.
- The nursery will report to Milton Keynes Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) within 24 hours of a disclosure or suspicion of abuse.

In the event of a disclosure about child on child abuse, the nursery will treat all children involved, whether perpetrator or victim, as being 'at risk' and the nursery will provide support to all the children.

Where there has been a report of sexual violence, the main DSL will make an immediate risk and needs assessment which should be recorded in writing, and which considers:

- The victim and their need for protection and support.
- The alleged perpetrator, their proximity to the victim and if steps need to be taken to keep them apart, if sharing a class or nursery transport, for example.
- All other children, where there is a need to protect them.

The immediate consideration will be what support to provide to the child, the alleged perpetrator and other children involved/impacted. The wishes of the victim, the nature of the allegations and the protection of all children in the nursery will be of paramount importance when considering immediate actions to take. In the event of any disclosure about pupil-on-pupil abuse that all children involved, whether perpetrator or victim, will be treated as being "at risk" and placed on the nursery Watchlist record which is reviewed by the Nursery Manager. The main DSL will follow guidance provided by the Milton Keynes Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

Each case reported will be considered on an individual basis. The main DSL, in conjunction with any guidance provided by the Milton Keynes Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), will consider the following options:

1. To manage the case of sexual harassment internally, if the children involved are not in need of early help or statutory intervention and that it would be appropriate to manage the incident internally.
2. To consider if multi-agency early help is the appropriate course of action.
3. If the child has been harmed, or is at risk of harm, or is in immediate danger, the main DSL should make a referral to Milton Keynes Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) for advice or to make a referral, or out of hours Emergency Social work team. Such referrals will be made immediately.
4. To report to the Police. If this option is chosen, then a parallel report will be made to the Milton Keynes Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). The nursery will inform parents unless, to do so, would put the child at additional risk.

The nursery will provide appropriate on-going support to the children involved, where appropriate and in conjunction with multi-agency professionals.



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The main DSL may consider referring to the departmental advice: *Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Between Children in Schools and Colleges*.

9 ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE AGAINST PERSONS OUTSIDE OF THE NURSERY, ONLINE AND OFFLINE

In the case of allegations of abuse by persons outside of the nursery where a child's welfare, possible abuse, neglect and exploitation is of concern, then the member of staff will refer the matter to the Nursery Manager, (main DSL) or a DDSL. If the Nursery Manager is not available. The DDSL will then liaise with the Milton Keynes Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in the first instance. A written record of the referral will be e-mailed to the Milton Keynes Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) as soon as possible within the same nursery day. The main DSL will be required to keep detailed and accurate written records of all concerns about a child, even if there is no need to make an immediate referral.

10 GUIDANCE IF INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR IS NOTICED BY ANOTHER MEMBER OF STAFF

If a member of staff has concerns about the behaviour of another member of staff towards a child, he/she should report the concerns immediately to the main DSL. The Any concerns will be thoroughly investigated. If there is evidence of criminal activity, the Police will always be informed. Wherever possible and subject to the rights of the child, the member of staff will be informed of the outcome of the investigation.

All staff are trained to report and manage a genuine concern with impunity.

11 INFORMATION SHARING

Sharing information is essential for effective safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All staff are reminded that the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) introduced in May 2018 and the Data Protection Act 2018 are not barriers to justified information sharing to protect a child from harm or the risk of harm.

When a child moves nursery, in addition to handing over any child protection file securely within 5 days, the DSL may proactively share information with the new nursery to enable the new nursery to have support in place when a child arrives and to ensure that key staff, such as the SENCO, are aware of any needs.

The safeguarding of children at risk is a condition that allows safeguarding practitioners to share information legally without consent, if, to gain consent, could place a child at risk.

Relevant personal information can be shared lawfully if it is to keep a child safe from neglect or physical, emotional or mental harm, or if it is protecting their physical, mental or emotional well-being.

All concerns, discussions and decisions made, including the rationale for those decisions, will be recorded. These recordings will include instances where referrals were or were not made to an outside agency.

12 PREVENTION

The nursery recognises that it plays a significant role in preventing harm to children in the following ways:



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Across the curriculum, opportunities are provided that equip children with the skills they need to stay safe from harm and to know to whom they should turn to for help.

The nursery will ensure children are taught about how to stay safe, based on a wide view of what may happen to pupils, not only in nurseries but also beyond it. This will include staying safe online and the dangers of cyberbullying and sexting – even if children in a particular faith community are not meant to use mobile phones or any other electronic device with imaging and sharing capabilities or have limited access to the internet.

Particular attention will be paid to the nursery's practices to help children to adjust their behaviours in order to build resilience and reduce risks, including those of radicalisation. They will also be taught about the importance of telling a teacher/other member of staff if they come across something online which makes them uncomfortable, especially staying safe online and the dangers of cyberbullying or sexting, even in cases where children only have limited internet or mobile phone access.

- Ensure that all children know there is an adult in the nursery whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty.
- Establish and maintain an ethos, which is understood by all staff, which enables children to feel secure and encourages them to talk knowing that they will be listened to.
- The nursery has an appropriate policy in place when dealing with abuse by one or more children against another child when there is 'reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm' including that any such abuse will be referred to the local authority as a child protection concern. The nursery will ensure that in the event of any disclosures about child on child abuse that all children involved, whether perpetrator or victim, are treated as being 'at risk'.

Any nursery decision to seek support for a child in need or at risk, or about whom there are concerns (including concerns relating to radicalisation) would normally be taken in consultation with parents. Parent consent would not be required where there are reasonable grounds to believe that a child is a risk of significant harm.

12.1 Anti-Bullying

The nursery will not tolerate any kind of bullying, harassment, victimisation or discrimination. The nursery takes any kind of bullying, both physical and emotional (which may cause psychological damage) very seriously, including any bullying on the basis of a protected characteristic. The nursery will treat all children and parents fairly and with consideration and we expect them to reciprocate towards each other, the staff and the nursery. Any kind of bullying is unacceptable.

- *Please refer to the separate document: Anti-Bullying Policy.*

12.2 Children who are Absent from Nursery

It is recognised that one of the signs of children being at risk of or being harmed is when the child is missing from nursery without explanation, particularly on a regular basis.

When a child is not in nursery for an unusually long period without an explanation, then the nursery will contact parents for an explanation. The nursery will endeavour to hold a minimum of two emergency contacts for each child. Where a child is missing from nursery and contact



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cannot be made with parents, then the Nursery Manager (main DSL) will contact Milton Keynes Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) for further advice.

12.3 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

This 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 children are persuaded or forced into exchanging sexual activity for money, drugs, gifts, affection or status. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation can include both contact and non-contact sexual activity and can also occur through the use of technology. A significant number of children who are victims of sexual exploitation go missing from home, care and education at some point.

As part of their safeguarding training, staff are taught to recognise possible signs of sexual abuse. If a member of staff suspects that a child may be at risk or suffering from child sexual abuse, he/she must immediately report this to the main DSL who will liaise with the Milton Keynes Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and follow its procedures for notification of child sexual exploitation.

12.4 Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

CCE is where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child into any criminal activity in exchange for something the victim needs or wants. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. CCE does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. CCE can include children being forced to work in cannabis factories, being coerced into moving drugs or money across the country, forced to shoplift or pickpocket, or to threaten other young people.

As part of their safeguarding training, staff are taught to recognise possible signs of criminal exploitation. If a member of staff suspects that a child may be at risk or suffering from child criminal exploitation, he/she must immediately report this to the main DSL who will liaise with the Milton Keynes Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and follow its procedures for notification of child criminal exploitation.

12.5 Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

As the nursery has female pupils, when a member of staff discovers that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out, he/she must immediately report this to the main DSL. It is mandatory for the main DSL to inform the Police. Milton Keynes Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) will be involved as appropriate.

12.6 Online Safety

EYFS children do not have access to the internet and sessions are always supervised by a member of staff.

Children are not allowed to bring mobile phones or any other electronic device with imaging and sharing capabilities into nursery.



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- Please refer to the separate document: *Policy for Online Safety*.
- Please refer to the separate document: *Acceptable Use of Technology Policy*
- Please refer to the UK Safer Internet Centre (<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/about>)
- Please refer to CEOP's Thinkuknow (www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

12.7 One to One Teaching

When children receive one-to-one specialist teaching, for example, dyslexia coaching, the child will be collected from their class with the permission of the room leader. The nursery gives special attention to the safeguarding of children arrangements where certain children are engaged in one to one teaching.

Please refer to separate document: One to One Teaching Policy

12.8 Prevent Awareness (Radicalisation)

The nursery will adhere to the obligations and guidance from the Prevent Duty and Guidance for England and Wales (Dec 23). Protecting children from the risks of radicalisation is part of the nursery's wider safeguarding duties. Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and other of extremism. The nursery will build children's resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British Values throughout the curriculum and through the provision of PSHE, circle time and assemblies.

It is essential that staff are able to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation and know what to do when they are identified. Staff should be alert to changes in behaviour in children that may indicate that the child might be in need of help or protection. Where a staff member identifies a concern, then the staff member must consult with the DSL.

Extremism is the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. This also includes calling for the death of members of the armed forces.

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

Terrorism is an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.

When there are significant concerns about a child, the DSL may seek advice and/or make a referral to the most appropriate body, either Channel, Children's Social Care or Milton Keynes Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). Further contacts are provided in Appendix 1.

The Prevent Duty requires the nursery to ensure that any visiting speakers are suitable and appropriately supervised. A member of staff will always be present when any visiting speaker addresses children. It is the responsibility of the member of staff inviting the visitor, to ensure



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that references are sought prior to the visit and that the member of staff is assured as to the suitability of the speaker to address children.

12.9 Taking Photographs of Children

The nursery will use photographs as a way to share and celebrate achievements in nursery. Parents will themselves often enjoy seeing their children's photographs in nursery. The nursery wishes to ensure that everyone can continue to enjoy these activities safely. Only nursery cameras and phones are to be used to take photographs of approved activities in nursery. Mobile phones or any other electronic devices with imaging and sharing devices are not to be used. This applies to the whole nursery.

- *Please refer to the separate document: Policy on Taking, Storing and Using Images of Children.*

12.10 Use of Mobile Phones and any other electronic devices with imaging and sharing devices

Mobile phones provide staff with important contact with their families and, therefore, it is accepted that staff will have the devices in nursery. However, they must only be used in the staff room and restricted office areas.

- *Please refer to the separate document: Mobile Phone Policy.*

Parents are requested not to use their mobile phones or any other electronic devices with imaging and sharing devices in nursery.

12.11 Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse is defined as any incident or pattern of incidents of violence or the threat of violence, intimidating or threatening behaviour or abuse between persons aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can include, but is not limited to physical, psychological, sexual, emotional and financial. It is recognised that domestic abuse can have long-lasting and damaging effects on a child's health, well-being, development and ability to learn (emotional and psychological development).

The harm done to children by living in an environment where domestic abuse occurs, may be caused 'where they see, hear or experience its effects' and may extend beyond signs of physical harm.

All staff should be alert to any sign or symptom that a child may be vulnerable to, experiencing, witnessing or at risk of domestic abuse. Where a staff member identifies that a child may be at risk or is exposed to domestic abuse, then they must immediately inform the DSL. The nursery will follow guidance from the MKTP. The priority will be to support the child and follow guidance provided by the MKTP.

12.12 Gangs

All staff should be alert to any changes in a child's behaviour which give cause for concern, including anti-social behaviour and indicators that the child may be exposed to or involved in gang-related activity. If a member of staff identifies any person or child to be at risk, they should immediately inform the main DSL, who will then follow guidance provided by the MKTP.



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12.12A Serious Violence

All staff should be aware of indicators which may signal that children are at risk from, or are involved with serious violent crime such as knife or gun crime and homicide. These may include increased absence from nursery a change in friendships or relationships with older individuals or groups, a significant decline in performance, signs of self-harm or a significant change in wellbeing, or signs of assault or unexplained injuries. Unexplained gifts or new possessions could also indicate that children have been approached by, or are involved with, individuals associated with criminal networks or gangs and may be at risk of CCE.

A range of risk factors increase the likelihood of involvement in serious violence. These include;

being male;

having been frequently absent or permanently excluded from nursery;

having experienced child maltreatment;

having been involved in offending, such as theft or robbery.

Early intervention is about recognising and responding to the indicators of potential vulnerability, providing early support that is effective. When a young person begins to show signs of exploitation or vulnerability to exploitation, and thus at increased risk from serious violence, we should be able to intervene as early as possible to help reduce the risk factors and increase the protective factors.

12.13 Forced Marriage

A forced marriage is defined as one entered into without the full and free consent of one or both parties and where violence, threats or other forms of coercion are used to cause the person to enter into a marriage. If a member of staff identifies any person or child to be at risk, they should immediately inform the DSL, who will then follow guidance provided by the MKTP.

12.14 Honour based violence (HBV)

Honour based violence involved incidents or crimes carried out to protect the honour of the family and/or the community and can include female genital mutilation (see Section 11.5) and breast ironing. Such honour-based violence can often involve the wider family or community. Staff will be alert to any child being at risk of honour based violence and will treat any such risk as a safeguarding concern and report their concerns to the main DSL immediately. The DSL will follow guidance provided by the MKTP.

12.15 Upskirting

Upskirting involves taking a picture under a person's clothing and without them knowing in order to cause humiliation, distress or alarm of the victim. This is a form of an abuse and now considered a criminal offence. If a member of staff identifies any person or child to be at risk, they should immediately inform the main DSL, who will then follow guidance provided by the MKTP.

12.6 County Lines

A County Line is used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas [within the UK], using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of "deal line". They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move [and store] the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons. If a member of staff identifies any person or child to



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be at risk, they should immediately inform the main DSL, who will then follow guidance provided by the MKTP.

12.17 Child Abduction and Community Safety Incidents

Child abduction is the unauthorised removal or retention of a minor from a parent or anyone with legal responsibility for the child. Child abduction can be committed by parents or other family members; by people known but not related to the victim (such as neighbours, friends and acquaintances); and by strangers.

12.18 Children and the Court System

Only school-age children may be required to give evidence in court.

12.19 Children with Family Members in Prison

Approximately 200,000 children in England and Wales have a parent sent to prison each year. These children are at risk of poor outcomes including poverty, stigma, isolation and poor mental health. The National Information Centre on Children of Offenders, [NICCO](#) provides information designed to support professionals working with offenders and their children, to help mitigate negative consequences for those children.

12.20 Modern Slavery and the National Referral Mechanism

Modern slavery encompasses human trafficking and slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour. Exploitation can take many forms, including sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery, servitude, forced criminality and the removal of organs.

12.21 Cybercrime

Cybercrime is criminal activity committed using computers and/or the internet. It is broadly categorised as either 'cyber-enabled' (crimes that can happen off-line but are enabled at scale and at speed on-line) or 'cyber dependent' (crimes that can be committed only by using a computer). Children with particular skills and interest in computing and technology may inadvertently or deliberately stray into cyber-dependent crime. If there are concerns about a child in this area, the designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy), will consider referring into the **Cyber Choices** programme.

12.22 Channel

Channel is a voluntary, confidential support programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Prevent referrals may be passed to a multi-agency Channel panel, which will discuss the individual referred to determine whether they are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism and consider the appropriate support required. A representative from the nursery may be asked to attend the Channel panel to help with this assessment. An individual's engagement with the programme is entirely voluntary at all stages. The designated safeguarding lead will consider if it would be appropriate to share any information with the new nursery or college in advance of a child leaving.

12.23 Homelessness

Being homeless or being at risk of becoming homeless presents a real risk to a child's welfare. The designated safeguarding lead (and any deputies) should be aware of contact details and referral routes into the Local Housing Authority so they can raise/progress concerns at the earliest opportunity. Children's social care will be the lead agency for these



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children and the designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy) should ensure appropriate referrals are made based on the child's circumstances.

12.24 Organisations or Individuals using Nursery Premises

Any allegation received relating to an incident that may happen when an individual or organisation is using the nursery premises for the purposes of running activities for our children will be dealt with in line with the nursery's safeguarding policies and procedures, including informing the LADO as we would do with any safeguarding allegation.

12.25 Contextual Safeguarding

Safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside the nursery and can occur between children outside nursery. All staff, but especially the DSL and any deputies, should consider the context within which such incidents and/or behaviours occur. The nursery will as part of the wider assessment of children, consider whether environmental factors are present in a child's life that are a threat to their safety and/or welfare. The nursery will share as much information with local agencies as possible as part of the referral process to enable consideration of all the available evidence and the full context of any abuse.

12.26 Early Help

Any child may benefit from early help, but all staff should be particularly alert to the potential need for early help for a child who:

- Is disabled or has certain health conditions and has specific additional needs
- Has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory education, health and care plan)
- Has a mental health need
- Is a young carer
- Is showing signs of being drawn in to anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement as association with organised crime groups or county lines
- Is frequently missing/goes missing from education, home or car
- Has experienced multiple suspensions, is at risk of being permanently excluded from schools, or in Alternative Provision or a Pupil Referral Unit.
- Is misusing drugs and other alcohol themselves
- Is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking, and/or sexual or criminal exploitation
- Is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as substance abuse, adult mental health problems or domestic abuse
- Is at risk of being radicalised or exploited
- Has a parent or carer in custody, or is affected by parental offending
- Is a privately fostered child
- Is at risk of so-called 'honour' - based abuse such as Female Genital Mutilation or Forced Marriage.

Early help is providing help and support to meet the needs of children, of all ages, as soon as problems emerge. Early help improves resilience and outcomes or reduces the chance



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of a problem getting worse. Early help may be appropriate for children who have several needs, or whose circumstances might make them more vulnerable.

The nursery has effective measures in place to identify emerging problems and potential unmet needs of individual children. All staff undertake appropriate training to ensure that they know when to share information with other agencies and what action to take to support early identification and assessments.

In the first instance, staff identify a child who may benefit from early help and will discuss this with the DSL. If appropriate, the DSL will work with the Children's Social Care or Milton Keynes Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) to undertake an assessment of the need for early help. The DSL will support staff in liaising with external agencies and professionals in an inter-agency assessment, as appropriate. Further guidance on effective assessment of the need for early help can be found in *Working Together to Safeguard Children* (December 2023) ('WT')

If early help is appropriate, the matter will be kept under review and consideration given to a referral to children's social care if the child's situation does not appear to be improving.

12.27 Mental Health

The nursery has an important role to play in supporting the mental health and wellbeing of its children. Mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Staff can access a range of advice to help them identify children in need of extra mental health support, this includes working with external agencies. More information can be found in the DfE *Mental Health and Behaviour in Schools* guidance.

13 THE USE OF RESTRAINT

The Nursery has a clear and precise policy on using the restraint on children on the premises of the nursery and during nursery hours and will only use reasonable force and when applicable as per DfE guidance on 'Use of Reasonable force', 2013. Physical contact with children may occur under other circumstances such as providing physical prompts, giving support in PE and supplying reassurance. The term restraint does not extend to these situations. Staff should not be inhibited in providing such contact when it is professional and appropriate to do so. The nursery will never use force as a punishment. It is always unlawful to use force as a punishment.

As per the DfE guidance, locking children in rooms for any reason (including for children or staff safety) is potentially illegal; it is not just a breach of the standards. The use of isolation booths/units has also been found potentially to give rise to safeguarding and human rights issues.

- *Please refer to the separate document: Restraint Policy.*

14 SUPPORTING CHILDREN

Staff are trained to listen to children and be alert to any signs and symptoms which could indicate that a child needs early help. Early help means providing support as soon as a



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problem emerges at any point in a child's life. Early intervention can also help prevent problematic, abusive and/or violent behaviour in the future. (KCSIE, September 2024).

The nursery recognises that disabled children and children with special educational needs may face additional safeguarding challenges. Therefore, the nursery will review and undertake regular monitoring of these children.

Children who have suffered or are likely to suffer significant harm will be referred immediately to the Milton Keynes Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and the nursery will follow Milton Keynes Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) procedures. Where decisions to seek support for a child in need or at risk would normally be taken in consultation with parents, no consent is required for a referral when there are reasonable grounds to believe that a child may be at risk of significant harm.

Where a child needs additional support from one or more agencies, the nursery will invoke inter-agency assessment using local inter-agency procedures:

- The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) is designed to enable early and effective assessment of children who might need additional support.
- The Multi Agency Referral Form (MARF) is designed to enable a non-urgent referral to be made to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

Where Child Protection or Child in Need procedures are invoked, the nursery will follow inter-agency practices and recommendations from the MKTP with regard to specific support to be put in place by the nursery for the child.

Where a child is identified as being at risk of radicalisation, the main DSL will identify the most appropriate source of support for the child and the family. This could be via Channel or Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). The relevant contacts are contained in Appendix 1.

14.1 Looked After Children

The nursery will ensure that staff have the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to keep safe any children on roll who are looked after, or have been looked after, by the local authority.

This would include ensuring that a designated member of staff has responsibility for their welfare and progress and has up-to-date assessment information from the relevant local authority, the most recent care plan and contact arrangements with parents, and delegated authority to carers.

The nursery currently has 0 children on roll who are classed as looked after children.

14.2 Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) can face additional safeguarding challenges, including particular vulnerability to peer-on-peer abuse. Staff must be alert to the fact that additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in this group of children. These may include:



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- Assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's disability without further explanation;
- Being more prone to peer group isolation than other children;
- The potential for children with SEN and disabilities to be disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs; and
- Communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers.

To address these additional challenges, children with SEND may require extra pastoral support. The additional vulnerabilities of pupils with SEND and the nursery's duty to make reasonable adjustments should be particularly carefully considered in situations where the use of reasonable force may be needed in response to risks presented by incidents involving children with SEND or medical conditions.

15 STRESS AND MENTAL WELLBEING

The Nursery is committed to providing a system to support good mental health for all children and to help minimise and alleviate stress and poor mental health. It is the nursery's intention to deal constructively and sympathetically with stress and poor mental health. Stress or poor mental health will not be treated as a sign of weakness.

We believe that all staff have a responsibility to promote positive mental health, and to understand about protective and risk factors for mental health. Some children will require additional help and all staff should have the skills to look out for any early warning signs of mental health problems and ensure that children with mental health needs get early intervention and the support they need.

All staff are aware that mental health problems can be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation.

All staff also understand about possible risk factors that might make some children more likely to experience problems, such as: physical long-term illness, having a parent who has a mental health problem, death and loss, including loss of friendships, family breakdown and bullying. They should also understand the factors that protect children from adversity, such as self-esteem, communication and problem-solving skills, a sense of worth and belonging and emotional literacy.

Through PSHE the nursery teaches knowledge and social and emotional skills that will help children to be more resilient, understand about mental health and be less affected by the stigma of mental health problems.

All concerns are reported to the Nursery Manager, Mrs Wilson and recorded. The nursery will then assess each concern on a case by case basis and ensure that children get the support they need, either from within the Nursery or from an external specialist service. The nursery's aim is to put in place interventions as early as possible to prevent problems escalating.

The nursery also recognises that support for mental health and wellbeing is equally important for members of staff.

16 SUPPORTING STAFF



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Staff working in the nursery who have become involved with a child who has suffered harm or appears to be likely to suffer harm may find the situation stressful and upsetting. The nursery will support such staff by providing an opportunity to talk through their anxieties with a DDSL and to seek further support.

Staff are also made aware of guidance to ensure that their behaviour and actions do not place children or themselves at risk of harm or of allegations of harm to a child (for example, in one-to-one tuition, performing arts, sports coaching, conveying a child by car, engaging in inappropriate electronic communication with a child, and so on).

Please refer to separate document: Code of Conduct Policy

17 CONFIDENTIALITY

The nursery recognises that all matters regarding the safeguarding of children are confidential.

- The Nursery Manager/main DSL and or DDSLs will disclose personal information about a child to other members of staff on a need to know basis only.
- All staff have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children, following MKTP inter-agency protocols for communication.
- All staff must not promise a child to keep any secrets that may compromise the child's safety or well-being or that of another child.
- Staff must not promise a child confidentiality when a child raises a safeguarding concern with them.
- The nursery will always undertake to share its intention to refer a child to the Milton Keynes Together Partnership (MKTP) with their parent's/carer's permission, unless to do so, could put the child at greater risk of harm, or impede a criminal investigation.
- A member of staff who reports another member of staff for inappropriate behaviour is entitled to have his/her name protected from being disclosed by the Nursery Manager to the alleged perpetrator, without his/her prior approval. However, it has to be recognised that his/her evidence may be required by the Police to be used in any criminal proceedings.

18 DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEADS

Mrs Nicola Wilson is the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and has overall responsibility and sufficient independence for the nursery's safeguarding, prevent and online safety responsibilities and undergoes refresher training every two years.

The DSL's responsibility is to maintain an overview of safeguarding, manage referrals, prevent and on-line practices within the nursery, to open channels of communication with local agencies (including the local authority children's services, the DBS, Channel and the Police), and to support staff in carrying out their safeguarding duties to monitor the effectiveness of policies and procedures in practice, share relevant information where necessary, keep child protection files up to date, advise on training requirements and raise awareness when necessary. The DSL will also take lead responsibility for online safety and understanding the filtering and monitoring systems and processes the nursery has in place. The DSL works with the proprietorial body to review and update the Nursery's safeguarding policy

Safeguarding concerns for children should be referred, in the first instance, to Mrs Wilson as the DSL. If Mrs Wilson is away from the nursery site, during normal nursery hours, she can



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be contacted via the nursery telephone number, 01908 678403. In the absence of Mrs Wilson, safeguarding concerns should be referred to Mrs McLaughlan (Matron and DDSL) or DDSL's (Deputy Matrons) as follows: Mrs Amanda Bolt, Mrs Tracy Baigent or Miss Samantha Johnson.

The DSL and DDSLs receive updated child protection training every two years. All training will be in line with the local requirements and will include local inter-agency working protocols and training in Prevent duties.

The DSL is aware of the requirement for children to have an Appropriate Adult in relation to ongoing enquiries under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and police investigations.

The DSL is aware of the provisions relating to the role in KCSIE Sept 2023 – Annex C.

The Designated Safeguarding Leads are named in Appendix 1.

Where a child leaves the Nursery, including for in-year transfers, the DSL will also ensure their child protection file is transferred to the new school (separately from the main pupil files) as soon as possible and within 5 days for an in-year transfer or with the first 5 days of the start of a new term. The DSL will ensure secure transit and obtain confirmation of receipt. In addition to the child protection file, the DSL should also consider if it would be appropriate to share any additional information with the new school in advance of a child leaving to help them put in place the right support to safeguard this child and to help the child thrive in the Nursery

Access to the nursery's records on Child Protection is restricted to the Head of Nursery/DSL and other DDSLs.

19 EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE

The DSL with the lead responsibility for safeguarding is Mrs Wilson.

The DSL with the lead responsibility for the EYFS recognises that specific guidance for staff that teach in the EYFS is required.

Ofsted will be informed of any allegations of serious harm or abuse by any person working or looking after children on the nursery premises (whether that allegation relates to harm or abuse committed on the nursery premises or elsewhere), or any other abuse which is alleged to have taken place on the premises and of the action taken in respect of these allegations.

These notifications will be made as soon as is reasonably practicable, but at least within 14 days of the allegations being made. The nursery understands that as a registered provider who, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with this requirement, commits an offence.

The nursery has very specific guidelines on the use of mobile phones or any other electronic devices with imaging and sharing devices in the nursery. Staff are not permitted to take photographs of EYFS children with their mobile phones. Only nursery cameras or phones may be used for that purpose.

In line with current EYFS statutory requirements at least one member of staff, on our games, will hold an up to date paediatric first aid certificate when children are present. We also ensure



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that at least one member of staff present on all nursery trips holds an appropriate paediatric first aid certificate.

All EYFS staff who are Level 2 and/or Level 3 qualified since June 2016 will hold a valid paediatric first aid (PFA) certificate. Certificates are made available to parents if requested

- *Please refer to the separate document: Mobile Phone Policy*
- *Please refer to the First Aid Policy.*
- *Please refer to the separate document: Policy on Taking, Storing and Using Images of Children.*

20 SAFER RECRUITMENT

The nursery is committed to ensuring all appropriate safer recruitment checks and procedures are applied to any member of staff employed by the nursery before he/she begins their employment. This will include any staff employed by another organisation and working with the nursery's children in nursery or on any other site.

All members of staff will be supervised at all times until all Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks have been completed.

All new teaching staff will be Prohibition Order checked.

Where relevant, all new teaching staff will be EEA checked from 18 January 2016.

All staff appointed to a management position from 12 August 2015 will be subject to a Prohibition from Management check. This applies to internal appointments as well as external appointments.

All necessary staff details and recruitment checks will be entered onto the nursery's Single Central Record (SCR) and will be reviewed regularly by the nursery's senior management team, including the Proprietor, Head of EYFS and Chair of Governors.

Visiting speakers, invited by staff shall be suitably and appropriately supervised at all times whilst on the nursery premises. Checks on visiting speakers will include obtaining approval by the Nursery Manager, with a clear understanding of why the speaker has been chosen. The nursery will also conduct appropriate checks on the suitability of the person, which may include internet searches and/or contacting other nurseries where the person may have spoken previously. A Visiting Speaker Risk Assessment and Agreement will be completed and received prior to the visitor being onsite.

A member of the Management Team and the HR Manager have completed a course on Safer Recruitment. At least one person conducting any interview for any post at the nursery will have undertaken safer recruitment training.

20.1 DISQUALIFICATION UNDER THE CHILDCARE ACT 2006

The nursery will not knowingly employ people to work in the setting or be directly concerned with its management if they themselves are directly disqualified from childcare.



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Please refer to the separate document: Safer Recruitment Policy.

21 TRAINING

21.1 Induction Training

Every new member of staff receives induction training on their responsibilities to be alert to the signs of abuse, neglect, exploitation and bullying. They will be informed of the names of the main DSL and DDSLs to whom any safeguarding concerns should be referred. They will also receive induction training on the procedures for recording and referring any safeguarding concerns to the main DSL and/or DDSLs.

During induction, new employees will be given copies of the following:

- The Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, (including online and offline safety) and Children who are absent from Education and the names of the nursery's Designated Safeguarding Lead and the DDSLs
- The Code of Conduct for Staff.
- The Whistleblowing Policy.
- Fire and Emergency Evacuation Procedures
- Health and Safety
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- The Behaviour, Sanctions and Rewards Policy.
- Keeping Children Safe in Education Part 1 with Annex B (September 2024)
- Online Safety Policy and Acceptable Use of Technology Policy
- Mobile Phone Policy – Staff are allowed to bring their personal phones to nursery for their own use but must limit such use to non-contact time when children are not present. Staff understand they must not take pictures or recordings of children on their personal phones or cameras.

21.2 Training for the Nursery Manager, main DSL and DDSLs

The Head of EYFS is the main DSL who along with the DDSLs attend refresher training in safeguarding and child protection and Prevent awareness training every two years (as determined by the MKTP), covering the following areas:

- The assessment process for providing early help and intervention.
- The MKTP practices for child protection case conferences and child protection review conferences and how to contribute effectively to these.
- Inter-agency working practices.
- How to support children in need or at risk.
- Online safety.
- Identifying children at risk of radicalisation (prevent)
- Record keeping protocols.
- Continuing to ensure that the nursery culture is one based on listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings.
- Understanding the impact on a child of adversity and trauma and how to promote educational outcomes in response to it.

As the local authority develops its services to support the Prevent Duty, it is anticipated that the main DSL and DDSLs will undergo higher levels of training on how to be able to assess



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the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including being drawn into support for extremist views.

The DSL and DDSLs are given copies of KCSIE (September 2024) including Annex B and Annex C of the KCSIE to support their understanding of their responsibilities as the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Nursery Manager will ensure that the DDSLs are given sufficient time, funding and supervision to fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities effectively.

21.3 Staff Training

All members of staff, including part time, regular contractors and visitors, receive annual safeguarding training, prevent and on-line safety awareness training annually in order to:

- Develop their understanding of the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.
- Recognise the differences between a safeguarding concern and a child who is at risk of immediate harm.
- Recognise the signs and symptoms of abuse at the earliest opportunity. This includes:
 - Significant changes in a child's behaviour.
 - Signs of deterioration in a child's well-being.
 - Unexplained bruising, marks or other sign of possible abuse or neglect.
 - Parent comments which may give cause for concern.
 - Any reasons to suspect abuse, neglect and exploitation outside the nursery setting, for example, the child's home.
 - Understanding the particular vulnerabilities of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) who are at risk of greater harm.
 - Child on child sexual violence and sexual harassment.
 - Inappropriate behaviour displayed by staff or other persons working with children, for example, inappropriate sexual comments, excessive one-to-one attention beyond that which would be expected in the role or sharing of inappropriate images.
 - To not promise confidentiality, to listen, to be non-judgemental, not lead, takes notes and report to the DSL or one of the DDSLs.
- Identify children who may be at risk of being exposed to extremism, how to challenge extremist ideas and how to refer children for further help.

A Training Register is maintained which records the Basic Safeguarding Training, Prevent and On-Line Safety awareness training provided to staff.

Training is given to part-time and voluntary staff.

Each time KCSIE is updated, staff will receive the updated version, to read and keep, along with Annex B.

Staff who have English as a foreign language may be provided with Annex A, the condensed version of Part 1.

The nursery will follow advice from the MKTP with regard to determining the most appropriate level and focus for safeguarding training for staff.



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Staff are also made aware of guidance to ensure that their behaviour and actions do not place children or themselves at risk of harm or of allegations of harm to a child (for example, in one-to-one tuition, sports coaching, conveying a child by car, engaging in inappropriate electronic communication with a child, and so on).

The nursery considers the above training schedule to be of adequate frequency. However, the nursery will consult regularly with MKTP to determine the most appropriate schedule for training and will review annually, the level and focus of training required.

- *Please refer to the separate document: Code of Conduct for Staff.*

The Nursery Manager will ensure that staff have the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to keep safe children who are looked after by a local authority. This will include ensuring the appropriate staff have up to date assessment information from the relevant local authority, the most recent care plan and contact arrangements with parents, and delegated authority to carers, and information available to the DSL and DDSLs.

The nursery will ensure that all staff working with children will have regular reviews of their own practice (*Annual Supervision meetings/Performance Reviews*) and have opportunities to discuss any concerns they may have about safeguarding matters. This will include the personal and professional duty to report welfare and safeguarding concerns to the Heads and/or main DSL in the nursery, or, in their absence, directly to MKTP.

The nursery will ensure that all staff receive copies of the nursery's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy when updated. Staff who do not have a clear understanding of the most recent version of KCSIE should seek further guidance from the Nursery Manager who will in turn inform the main DSL and have the member of staff re-train in the necessary areas.

22 REVIEW OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Proprietor is responsible for ensuring that the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and procedures are reviewed annually. The review will ensure that the policy is up-to-date with any guidance and advice provided by the Independent Schools Standards Regulations, statutory regulations and MKTP policy and procedures and will consider the efficiency with which the child protection duties have been discharged. The review will include the contribution to inter-agency working through effective communication and good cooperation with local agencies in line with 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (December 2023) and KCSIE (September 2024). The review will be carried out in conjunction with the nominated Safeguarding Governor.

The Proprietor understands that responsibility for the annual review cannot be delegated. However, the Proprietor may make appropriate arrangements for the review to be carried out by suitable others. The review will then be reported to the Proprietor, the Head of EYFS and the Chair of Governors.

The implementation of these policy provisions will be checked through discussion with the Proprietor, the Head of EYFS and the main DSL and by scrutiny of the minutes of Governor meetings and available evidence underpinning the review. The review will also take into account, but is not limited to:



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- Any written report or information presented to Governors to support the review.
- Training records.
- Referral information in respect of requests for help and support for individual children.
- Issues and themes which may have emerged in nursery and how these have been handled.
- The contribution the nursery is making to multi-agency working in individual cases.
- Local discussions on safeguarding matters.

Information will be sufficiently detailed to demonstrate both breadth and depth of the review.

The Proprietor and Safeguarding/Prevent Duty Governor is responsible for overseeing the annual review and implementation of Safeguarding and Child Protection matters. They will carry out regular monitoring checks on safeguarding procedures and known practice amongst different cross sections of staff within the nursery to ensure that staff know who to go to in the case of suspected abuse and what they might do in terms of communicating with a child in this context.

Each time the Safeguarding/Prevent Duty Governor visits the nursery for this purpose, the findings will be recorded in written format and retained in the Safeguarding and Child Protection file.

The Proprietor and Safeguarding/Prevent Duty Governor are also responsible for:

- Approving amendments to safeguarding and child protection procedures in the light of changing regulations or recommended best practice.
- Ensuring that any identified deficiencies or weaknesses in safeguarding and child protection procedures are immediately remedied.
- Ensuring the DSL has the appropriate status and authority within the nursery to carry out the duties of the post.
- Ensuring the nursery works with the LADO to determine whether there are any improvements to be made to the nursery's procedures or practice following a substantiated allegation against a member of staff.
- Ensuring the nursery's commitment to report promptly to the DBS any person (whether employed, contracted, a volunteer or student) whose services are no longer used because he/she is considered unsuitable to work with children. Ceasing to use a person's services includes: dismissal; non-renewal of a fixed-term contract; no longer engaging or refusing to engage a supply teacher provided by an employment agency; terminating the placement of a student teacher or other trainee; no longer using staff employed by contractors; no longer using volunteers; resignation and voluntary withdrawal from supply teaching, contract working, a course of initial teacher training or volunteering.
- The nursery will fully take the lead while keeping supply agencies fully informed and involved. In no circumstances will the nursery simply cease to use supply staff for safeguarding reasons.
- Ensuring staff are competent to carry out their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
- Creating an environment where staff feel supported in their safeguarding role and able to raise concerns.



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- Ensuring 'practitioners' (such as those who work directly with children) have regular reviews of their own practice so that they have knowledge, skills and experience which improve over time.

The Proprietor and Safeguarding/Prevent Duty Governor understand that:

- Failure to make a report constitutes an offence and as a consequence could lead to the nursery being removed from the register of independent schools.
- 'Compromise agreements' cannot apply in this connection.
- The legal duty to respond to requests from the DBS for information that the nursery already holds and that the nursery does not have to find it from other sources.

The nursery will follow appropriate regulations for all peripatetic teaching staff and shall ensure the necessary safeguarding checks, as detailed in the most recent Independent Schools Standards Regulations are actioned.

The Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy was reviewed in September 2024 and will be reviewed in or before September 2025.



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APPENDIX 1 CONTACTS

NURSERY CONTACTS

- Mrs Hilary Pauley, Proprietor, Milton Keynes Preparatory Nursery, Tattenhoe Lane, Milton Keynes, MK3 7EG.
- Chair of Governors and nominated Safeguarding and Prevent Governor: Mr David Pye, c/o Milton Keynes Preparatory Nursery, Tattenhoe Lane, Milton Keynes MK3 7EG. Any correspondence should be marked as Strictly Confidential. Tel: 01908 642111.
- Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Nicola Wilson (DSL) (nwilson@mkps.co.uk) Lead DSL for EYFS, Mrs McLaughlan (DDSL) (matron@waltonnursry.co.uk), Mrs Bolt, Mrs Baigent and Miss Johnson, (DDSLs)
- Prevent Officer: Mrs Nicola Wilson
- Nursery telephone number: 01908 678403.

INTER-AGENCY CONTACTS

Milton Keynes Council
MK Together Partnership

01908 691691
01908 253169/253170
mktogether@milton-keynes.gov.uk

Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
Emergency Social Work Team (out of office hours)

01908 253169/70
01908 265545
children@milton-keynes.gov.uk

LADO, Jo Clifford

01908 254300
jo.clifford@milton-keynes.gov.uk

If the LADO is not available, refer to Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 01908 253169.

For further guidance please see the Milton Keynes local safeguarding partner MK Together Partnership (MKTP) website: www.mkscb.org

Forced Marriage Unit

020 7008 0151



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fmu@fco.gov.uk

OTHER CONTACTS

Ofsted, Piccadilly Gate, Store Street, Manchester, M1 2WD or Ofsted	enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk 0300 123 1231
NSPCC Helpline	0808 800 5000
NSPCC 18 or under	0800 1111
NSPCC Whistleblowing Advice Line	0800 800 5000
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection)	0800 1111
Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre, 33 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, SW1V 2W	
CEOP's Thinkuknow website	www.thinkuknow.co.uk
Teacher Regulation Agency	0370 000 2288
The UK Safer Internet Centre	www.saferinternet.org.uk

DBS Barring (DBS), PO Box 3963, Royal Wootton Bassett, SN4 4HH. 03000 200 190

LGFL Undressed <https://undressed.lgfl.net>

Forced Marriage Unit 020 7008 0151 or
fmu@fco.gov.uk

The Prevent Duty

DfE Non-emergency advice for staff and governors 020 7340 7264

For local advice: preventreferrals@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

counter.extremism@education.gov.uk

Contact local police force on 0845 8505 505 or dial 101 (the non-emergency telephone number)

APPENDIX 2 INDICATORS OF ABUSE, NEGLECT AND EXPLOITATION

All nursery and college staff should be aware that abuse, neglect and exploitation and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events that can be covered by one definition or label. In most cases, multiple issues will overlap with one another.

ABUSE: a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse, neglect and exploit a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. They may be abused by an adult or adults or by another child or children. Exploitation can include instances where a child or young person may be groomed or become involved in sexual or criminal activity.

PHYSICAL ABUSE: a form of abuse which may involve hitting, kicking, shaking, throwing, biting, hair pulling, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing



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physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE: the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child from participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, although it may occur alone.

SEXUAL ABUSE: involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse. Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children. The sexual abuse of children by other children is a specific safeguarding issue in education.

NEGLECT: the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy, for example, as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to: provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment); protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger; ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

GENERAL SIGNS OF ABUSE:

Abused children may be afraid to tell anybody about the abuse. They may struggle with feelings of guilt, shame or confusion, particularly if the abuser is a parent, caregiver or other close family member or friend. Anyone working with children needs to be vigilant to the signs listed below.

Whilst these signs do not necessarily mean that a child is being abused, they probably indicate that the child or family is having some problems that should be investigated.

- Regularly experiencing nightmares or sleeping problems.
- Changes in personality.
- Outbursts of anger.
- Changes in eating habits.



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- Showing an inexplicable fear of particular places or making excuses to avoid particular people.
- Self-harming (includes head banging, scratching, cutting).
- Not receiving adequate medical attention after injuries.
- Showing violence to animals, toys, peers or adults.
- Knowledge of 'adult issues' e.g. alcohol, drugs, sexual behaviour.
- Lacking in confidence or often wary/anxious.
- Regressing to the behaviour of younger children.
- Regular flinching in response to sudden but harmless actions, e.g. someone raising a hand quickly.

Whether or not a child's behaviour or appearance is concerning depends on their age or stage of development.

All staff should be aware that children with learning difficulties and/or special educational needs and/or physical disabilities may be particularly vulnerable to abuse, neglect and exploitation.

The nursery will refer to MKTP's guidance on 'Levels of Need' and also refer to guidance and practical support found in KCSIE (September 2024), including advice on Children who are absent from Education, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Preventing Radicalisation.

APPENDIX 3 WHERE TO GET INFORMATION AND SUPPORT FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

For support on specific mental health needs

Anxiety UK www.anxietyuk.org.uk

OCD UK www.ocduk.org

Depression Alliance www.depressoinalliance.org

Eating Disorders www.b-eat.co.uk and www.inourhands.com

National Self-Harm Network www.nshn.co.uk www.selfharm.co.uk

Suicidal thoughts Prevention of young suicide UK – POPYRUS: www.papyrus-uk.org

For general information and support

www.youngminds.org.uk champions young people's mental health and wellbeing

www.mind.org.uk advice and support on mental health problems

www.minded.org.uk (e-learning)

www.time-to-change.org.uk tackles the stigma of mental health

www.rethink.org challenges attitudes towards mental health