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| Pavilion Pirates PreschoolBaden-Powell Lodge, Pavilion Road,Off Woodhouse Lane,Botley,SO30 2EZContact During Session:07769177701 | ***Registered Charity:1185950*** **2001-2021****20 Years*****Registered with Ofsted******Supported By******small for partnership publications*** |

**1.2 (b) Child Protection Policy**

***This policy should be read in conjunction with the preschool’s Safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults policy 1.2 (a)***

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| **Definition:** ***Child Protection* is an aspect of safeguarding, but it is focused on how we respond** **to children who have been significantly harmed or are at risk of significant harm** **(Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership, 2020)** |

**Policy Statement**

We recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare

of all children.

We make every effort to provide a safe and welcoming environment underpinned by a

culture of openness where both children and adults feel secure, able to talk and believe

they are being listened to.

We maintain an attitude of “it could happen here” where safeguarding is concerned.

**Aims**

* The purpose of this policy is to provide staff, volunteers and trustees with the framework they need in order to keep children safe and secure in our preschool and to inform parents and guardians how we respond to potential child protection issues.
* To demonstrate our commitment to protecting children
* To ensure consistent good practice throughout the preschool

**Principles and Values**

* Children have a right to feel secure and cannot learn effectively unless they do so.
* All children have a right to be protected from harm.
* All staff have a key role in the prevention of harm and an equal responsibility to act on any suspicion or disclosure that may indicate a child is at risk of harm, either in the preschool or in the community.
* We acknowledge that working in partnership with other agencies protects children and reduces the risk. Therefore, we will engage in partnership working throughout the child protection process to safeguard children.
* Whilst the preschool will work openly with parents as far as possible, it reserves the right to contact Children’s Social Care or the police, without notifying parents if this is believed to be in the child’s best interest.

**Leadership and Management**

We recognise that staff anxiety around child protection can compromise good practice and so have established clear lines of accountability, training and advice to support the process and individual staff within that process.

At Pavilion Pirates Preschool any individual can contact the Early Years Designated Safeguarding Lead (EYDSL) or the Deputy (DEYDSL) if they have any concerns about a young person.

The EYDSL is **Linda Noble** and the DEYDSL is **Helen Travers**

**Training**

All staff in our preschool are expected to be aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse and must be able to respond appropriately.

* Training opportunities are sought for all adults involved in the setting to ensure that they are able to recognise the signs and signals of possible physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse (including child sexual exploitation) and neglect and that they are aware of the local authority guidelines for making referrals. Training opportunities also cover extra familial threats such as online risks, radicalisation and grooming, and how to identify and respond to families who may be in need of early help, and organisational safeguarding procedures.
* The EYDSL and DEYDSL receive appropriate training, as recommended by the local safeguarding partners, annually, and refresh their knowledge and skills throughout the academic year.
* We ensure that all staff know the procedures for reporting and recording any concerns they may have about the provision.
* We ensure that all staff receive updates on safeguarding via emails, newsletters, online training and through discussions at staff meetings and Supervisions held regularly throughout the year.

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| **What we do if there are concerns about a child - Making a referral to the local authority children's social care team**1. Following any concerns raised, the EYDSL will assess the information and consider if significant harm has happened or there is a risk that it may happen.
2. If the concern is deemed to be of low level (level 1 or 2) or advice is required, the EYDSL assistance will be sought from Hants.gov.uk. The situation may be monitored or the family may be offered help through the early help process.
3. Further advice may be sought from the Hants Professional helpline 01329 255379.
4. Alternatively, if after referring to the Safeguarding and Neglect thresholds charts and deciding the risk of significant harm has been reached, the EYDSL will contact Children’s Social Care using the inter-agency referral form (IARF).

**In cases of immediate danger, or cases of known FGM the police will be contacted immediately.**  |

**Informing parents**

* Parents are normally the first point of contact. Concerns are normally discussed with parents to gain their view of events, unless it is felt that this may put the child or other person at risk, or may interfere with the course of a police investigation, or may unduly delay the referral, or unless it is otherwise unreasonable to seek consent. Advice will be sought from social care, or in some circumstances police, where necessary.
* Parents are informed when we make a record of concerns in their child’s file and that we also make a note of any discussion we have with them regarding a concern.
* If a suspicion of abuse warrants referral to social care, parents are informed at the same time that the referral will be made, except where the procedures of the local safeguarding partners does not allow this, for example, where it is believed that the child may be placed at risk. This will usually be the case where the parent is the likely abuser or where sexual abuse may have occurred.
* If there is a possibility that advising a parent beforehand may place a child at greater risk (or interfere with a police response) the designated person should consider seeking advice from children’s social care, about whether or not to advise parents beforehand, and should record and follow the advice given. (Professional Helpline 01329 225379).

 **Escalation process**

* If we feel that a referral made has not been dealt with properly or that concerns are not being addressed or responded to, we will follow the LSPs escalation process.
* We will ensure that staff are aware of how to escalate concerns.
* We will follow local procedures published by safeguarding partners to resolve professional disputes.

**Liaison with other agencies and multi-agency working**

* We work within the local safeguarding partners guidelines.
* The current version of ‘What to do if you’re worried a child is being abused’ is available for parents and staff and all staff are familiar with what they need to do if they have concerns.
* We have procedures for contacting the local authority regarding child protection issues and concerns about children’s welfare, including maintaining a list of names, addresses and telephone numbers of social workers, to ensure that it is easy, in any emergency, for the setting and children's social care to work well together.
* We notify Ofsted of any incident or accident and any changes in our arrangements which may affect the well-being of children or where an allegation of abuse is made against a member of staff (whether the allegations relate to harm or abuse committed on our premises or elsewhere). **Notifications to Ofsted are made as soon as is reasonably practicable, but at the latest within 14 days of the allegations being made.**
* Contact details for the local National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) are displayed on the staff safeguarding board.

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|  **Reports of allegations against staff and persons in position of trust*** We ensure that all parents know how to complain about the behaviour or actions of staff or volunteers within the setting.
* We ensure that all staff, volunteers and anyone else working in the setting knows how to raise concerns that they may have about the conduct or behaviour of other people including colleagues.
* We differentiate between allegations, and concerns about the quality of care or practice and complaints and have a separate process for responding to complaints.
* We respond to any inappropriate behaviour by members of staff or volunteers. Which includes: inappropriate sexual comments;
* excessive one-to-one attention beyond the requirements of their usual role and responsibilities, or inappropriate sharing of images
* We will recognise and respond to allegations that a person who works with children has:
	+ behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child
	+ possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child
	+ behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children
* We respond to any concerns raised by staff and volunteers who know how to escalate their concerns if they are not satisfied with our response

**What we do if there are reports of allegations against staff or persons in position of trust**1. We respond to any disclosure by children or staff that abuse by a member of staff or volunteer within the setting, or may have taken, or is taking place, by first recording the details of any such alleged incident.
2. We refer any such complaint immediately to the trustee members within the organisation and the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) as necessary to investigate and/or offer advice.
3. We will complete a LADO enquiry form (Hants.gov.uk), LADO will advise the next steps. If required a LADO referral form will be completed and emailed to LADO@hants.gov.

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1. We report any such alleged incident to Ofsted, as well as what measures we have taken. We are aware that it is an offence not to do this.
2. We co-operate entirely with any investigation carried out by children’s social care in conjunction with the police.
3. Where the management team and children’s social care agree it is appropriate in the circumstances, the member of staff or volunteer will be suspended for the duration of the investigation. This is not an indication of admission that the alleged incident has taken place, but is to protect the staff, as well as children and families, throughout the process. Where it is appropriate and practical and agreed with LADO, we will seek to offer an alternative to suspension for the duration of the investigation, if an alternative is available that will safeguard children and not place the affected staff or volunteer at risk.
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**Confidentiality**

* All suspicions and investigations are kept confidential and shared only with those who need to know. Any information is shared under the guidance of the local safeguarding partners and in line with the GDPR, Data Protection Act 2018, and Working Together 2018.

**Retention and transfer of records**

* Child Protection records will remain at the setting until a child moves onto another setting or school. We will then transfer these records, preferably in person, and obtain a signed receipt of who received these records and when.

**Support to families**

* We believe in building trusting and supportive relationships with families, staff and volunteers.
* We make clear to parents our role and responsibilities in relation to child protection, such as for the reporting of concerns, information sharing, monitoring of the child, and liaising at all times with the local children’s social care team.

We will continue to welcome the child and the family whilst investigations are being made in relation to any alleged abuse.

* We follow the Child Protection Plan as set by the child’s social worker in relation to the setting's designated role and tasks in supporting that child and their family, subsequent to any investigation.
* We will engage with any child in need plan or early help plan as agreed.
* Confidential records kept on a child are shared with the child's parents or those who have parental responsibility for the child in accordance with the Confidentiality and Client Access to Records procedure, and only if appropriate under the guidance of the local safeguarding partners.

**Legal framework**

*Primary legislation*

* Children Act (1989 s47)
* Protection of Children Act (1999)
* The Children Act (2004 s11)
* Children and Social Work Act 2017
* Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2006)
* Childcare Act (2006)

*Secondary legislation*

* Sexual Offences Act (2003)
* Criminal Justice and Court Services Act (2000)
* Equality Act (2010)
* General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) (2018)
* Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations (2009)
* Children and Families Act (2014)
* Care Act (2014)
* Serious Crime Act (2015)
* Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (2015)

**Further guidance**

* Working Together to Safeguard Children (HMG, 2018)
* What to do if you’re Worried a Child is Being Abused (HMG, 2015)
* Statutory guidance on making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under section 11 of the Children Act 2004 (HMG 2008)
* Disclosure and Barring Service: [www.gov.uk/disclosure-barring-service-check](http://www.gov.uk/disclosure-barring-service-check)
* Revised Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales (HMG, 2015)
* Inspecting Safeguarding in Early Years, Education and Skills Settings, (Ofsted, 2022)
* Safeguarding Children (Pre-school Learning Alliance 2013)
* Safeguarding through Effective Supervision (Pre-school Learning Alliance 2013)
* The New Early Years Employee Handbook (Pre-school Learning Alliance 2016)
* People Management in the Early Years (Pre-school Learning Alliance 2016)
* Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE 2025)

**1.2 (b) Child Protection Policy**

**This policy was adopted by Pavilion Pirates Preschool CIO**

**On 21.07.2021**

**Date reviewed 09.09.2025**

**Signed on behalf of the provider**

**Name and Role of Signatory Linda Noble (Trustee/NI)**

**Signed on behalf of the provider**

**Name and Role of Signatory Helen Travers (Trustee)**

**REVIEW DATE 09.09.2026**