

Safeguarding children/Child protection Policy



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

I have received training on Safeguarding Children (Child Protection) to enable me to identify, understand and respond to signs of possible abuse and neglect. I understand that abuse can be emotional abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse or neglect.

To support Safeguarding Children, I will:

- Operate a Visitor Policy
- Never allow children in my care to be left alone with anybody, except in accordance with my Emergency back up Plan
- Keep an Existing Injuries record in my accident book, which I will require parents to sign to show that they have made me aware of an accident or incident occurring prior to the child attending my setting
- Keep an Accident Book, which I will require parents to sign to show that I have made them aware of an accident or incident that occurred whilst the child was in my care
- Keep a copy of current Government guidance and replace it with any updated copies as I receive them
- Ensure that parents give permission for children to be photographed
- Ensure Everyone living in my house over the age of 16 years old has a CRB/DBS check
- Ensure that parents give permission for any outings
- Keep my records about individual children safe and secure
- Keep up to date with Safeguarding, child protection issues and relevant legislation by taking regular training courses and by reading relevant publications.
- Promote British values within the ethos of this setting
- I will promote children's welfare and prevent radicalisation and extremism as required under the Prevent Legislation 2015 and report any concerns about possible radicalisation of children in my care

Raising concerns

Parents must notify me of any concerns they have about their child and any accidents, incidents or injuries affecting the child, which will be recorded.

If I notice anything that gives me cause for concern, such as:

- significant changes in children's behaviour
- unexpected bruising or marks or signs of possible abuse
- any comments made which give me cause for concern
- deterioration in general wellbeing which causes concern
- signs of neglect
- Any reasons to suspect neglect or abuse outside of the setting, for example in the child's home



- That a girl may have been subjected to (or at risk of) female genital mutilation FGM (I have had training about FGM) I am aware that Female Genital Mutilation is illegal in this country and in the course of my professional duties, I am required to report this to the police.
- Inappropriate behaviour displayed by any other person working with the children e.g. if noticed whilst I am collecting a child from nursery/school which may include hearing inappropriate sexual comments; excessive one to one attention beyond the requirements of that person's usual role and responsibilities etc.
- Others concerns: Domestic abuse, private fostering, fabricated or induced illness, gender based violence, faith-based abuse/spirit possession, child trafficking/slavery, gang and youth violence, forced marriage, ritual abuse, honour based violence, hate crimes, sexting.

In most cases I will first approach the child's parents. If there is a satisfactory explanation, then unnecessary investigations will be avoided. If explanations are unsatisfactory or the child still shows signs of abuse, then I will contact

Front door for Families Telephone 01273 290400 frontdoorforfamilies@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk Out-of-hours: 01273 335905 (Emergency Duty Service)

I will also contact Ofsted as they require me to inform them of any concerns that I have reported without delay.

Other Useful telephone numbers are:

OFSTED 03001231231

Local Early years Team 01273 294283

Police Child Protection Team 01273 685539

NSPCC 24 hour help line 0800 800 500

Childline 0800 1111

Parentline 0808 800 2222

If a child tells me that they or another child is being abused, I will:

- Show that I have heard what they are saying, and that I take their allegations seriously
- Encourage the child to talk, but I will not prompt them or ask them leading questions. I will not interrupt when a child is recalling significant events and will not make a child repeat their account
- Explain what actions I must take, in a way that is appropriate to the age and understanding of the child
- Write down what I have been told using exact words where possible
- Make a note of the date, time, place and people who were present at the discussion
- Then report my concerns immediately to the duty social worker who has the experience and responsibility to make an assessment of the situation.

In all instances I will record:

- the child's full name and address
- the date and time of the record
- factual details of the concern, for example bruising, what the child said, who was present
- details of any previous concerns
- details of any explanations from the parents
- Any action taken such as speaking to parents.

It is not my responsibility to attempt to investigate the situation myself.



If an allegation is made against me, any member of my family or any other adult or child that relates to children in my care I will report it to Ofsted and my Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) within fourteen days following the local Safeguarding Children Board procedures. **Please see my Policy for Allegations against a childminder**

The use of mobile phones, cameras and any other electronic device used for recording images

I understand that mobile phones are an everyday part of life for parents and childminders and, with that in mind, I have laid out my procedure for their use:

- I will ensure my mobile phone is fully charged and with me at all times in case of emergencies
- I have the facility to take photographs on my mobile phone and will seek your permission to take any photographs of your child to record activities and share their progress with you.
- Any photographs taken will be deleted after either emailing to you or uploaded for use in your child's books.
- I will not publish any photographs of your child on any social networking sites or share with any other person without your permission
- Visitors to my setting are not permitted to use their electronic devices whilst on my premises, except in exceptional circumstances, when the devices must be used away from the children
- I have registered with the Information Commissioners Office as a data controller in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)
- I will always be able to justify to OFSTED the reason for taking the photographs.
- I will always ensure children are appropriately dressed.
- Children in my care who have their own mobile telephones will not routinely be allowed to make/receive calls and texts, other than to/from their parents or other close family members; however, I may grant permission to use them in exceptional circumstances but only under my supervision.
- Children in my care will not be allowed to take photographs or make video recordings using their own equipment.
- It will be the responsibility of parents to check that the content and supply of entertainment on their child's electronic equipment is suitable and in doing so they shall consider the fact that their child is likely to be in contact with younger children whilst in my setting.
- I shall reserve the right to check the content of a child's electrical equipment at any time whilst the child is in my care and if I identify what I consider to be unsuitable content, including taking photographs or making video recordings of other children, then I shall confiscate that equipment and return it to the parent when they collect their child. I reserve the right to delete any photographs or video recordings of children taken whilst those children are in my care from any child's electrical equipment.
- If I feel it appropriate I shall withdraw the privilege of allowing a child to bring electrical equipment into my setting.
- Parents and visitors will not be allowed to take photographs or making video recordings of children in my care other than their own children.
- Should I become aware of anybody in a public place taking photographs or making video recordings of children in my care, if I feel it is safe to do so I will ask them to stop taking photographs/making video recording and to destroy any electronic data they may have already stored which includes the children. Where somebody refuses to stop taking photographs or making recording, or where I feel it is not safe for me to approach them, I will remove any children in my care from that environment immediately. If I have any suspicions that somebody is taking photographs or making video recordings of children in my care for illegal purposes, then I will report this to the Police immediately.