

What is safeguarding?

Information for newly arrived families.

Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm.

Safeguarding means:

- protecting children from abuse and maltreatment
- preventing harm to children's health or development
- ensuring children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes.



Child protection is part of the safeguarding process.

It focuses on protecting individual children identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.

This includes child protection procedures which detail how to respond to concerns about a child.

All organisations that work with or come into contact with children should have safeguarding policies and procedures to ensure that every child, regardless of their age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation, has a right to equal protection from harm.

The role of childcare staff in safeguarding children

Designated Persons (DP) and all staff and volunteers within a childcare setting have a responsibility to safeguard a child, by becoming aware of any signs and indicators of possible abuse.

The DP is required to act on concerns about a child and enable appropriate measures to be put in place to safeguard the children.

This may mean meeting with the child's parents or carers and suggesting publicly available services that can offer help and support, or speaking with external professionals such as social care and the police.

When joining a Nursery or Preschool setting, you will be asked to complete a registration form and to provide any additional information that will support staff to give the best possible care to your child, such as medical or health information for your child. Once you have registered with a childcare setting, we hope that you would feel able to discuss any aspect of your family life such as concerns or changes for the children with the staff within the setting. Sharing information will enable them to support you as best as possible.

We believe working as a team with you is the most proactive and positive way to promote your child's wellbeing.

The setting will keep clear, detailed written records of concerns about children's welfare using the Log of Concern Form. Records will be stored securely and confidentially and passed on to the next childcare or educational setting the child attends.



Early Help

If you give consent, the staff at the setting can work in partnership with other services such as health and medical services, food banks, housing support and children and family services, who will work together with you and your family to improve the child's lived experience.

If you have any support needs, you can speak to the Designated Person at your child's setting to seek help and advice.



Protecting Children from Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse is against the law in England. Domestic Abuse refers to the use of physical force, emotional force or the threat of either, including economic abuse and controlling, coercive behaviour towards another person within a present or previous relationship.

Children are seen a victim of domestic abuse if they see, hear or experience it within their lives and it can have devastating effect on the child's wellbeing.

If you are experiencing Domestic Abuse you can call the police on 999.

Physical chastisement is not permitted within England by Childcare and Educational Staff and physical chastisement from parents is not supported as a suitable way to manage behaviour.

Settings will work with parents to find alternative ways of supporting children's behaviours.

Physical abuse such as rocking, shaking, hitting are against the law in the UK and any indications that a child is experiencing physical abuse will require the Police to intervene to safeguard the child.



Child criminal exploitation (CCE) is a growing issue where children and young people are targeted by criminals and gangs to get them to engage in criminal activity, such as stealing or carrying drugs or weapons.

The child or young person might be abused or put into dangerous positions. Children can be coerced to commit sexual and gang related acts for the benefit of others.

This is sometimes known as county lines.

Children exhibit signs of being missing from home, new unexplained gifts, carrying weapons, using drugs or alcohol.

Childcare staff will be vigilant to any signs that the child may be at risk of exploitation and speak with you where appropriate about safeguarding measures to put in place or contact social care to intervene where relevant.