Safeguarding Children Policy

In Accordance with the reformed EYFS (2012), Swallows Nest Preschool will have regard to the government's statutory guidance 'Working together to Safeguard Children'. If our staff have concerns about children's safety or welfare the setting will notify agencies with statutory responsibilities without delay. This means the local children's social care services and in emergencies, the police.

Swallows Nest Preschool fully recognises that it has a shared responsibility for safeguarding children.

This policy applies to all staff, management and volunteers working within the setting.

- The welfare of the children attending this setting is paramount and concerns about child abuse will be taken seriously. This policy therefore compliments and supports a range of other policies including ICT, Medications, Whistle-Blowing
- Recruitment procedures will ensure the suitability of staff and volunteers working with children and will follow EYFS safeguarding and welfare requirements with regard to Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks.
- Where there is a delay in obtaining the DBS, staff will not have unsupervised contact with children being cared for.
- All staff are expected to disclose any convictions, cautions, court orders, reprimands and warnings which may affect their suitability to work with children whether before or during their employment at the setting. There is a process in place that provides staff with opportunities to share such information.
- All staff are trained in the setting's safeguarding policy and procedures within the first week of employment and will be required to attend safeguarding training regularly. Training will be refreshed every 3 years
- Procedures are implemented for identifying, recording and reporting concerns.
- The setting provides a safe environment in which children feel valued, can learn and develop, feel secure and are encouraged to talk and be listened to.
- We work within the guidelines set out by the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children's Board which are underpinned by the statutory document 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (refer to procedure)
- A practitioner has been designated to take lead responsibility for safeguarding and liaising with local statutory children's services and with the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children's Board.
- The designated lead practitioner is Vanessa Harrison; support will be given by the Church Safeguarding Officer.
- The lead practitioner will provide support, advice and guidance to any other staff on an on-going basis and on any specific safeguarding issues as required.
- The designated lead practitioner has accessed a level 2 taught course in safeguarding and will refresh this every 3 years
- The use of mobile phones and cameras in the setting is covered in our safeguarding procedure (see procedure)
- The setting has a clear procedure that will be implemented when an allegation has been made against a member of staff (see procedure). The settings disciplinary procedure will inform any action in the event of an allegation (see disciplinary procedure)

- As a registered provider we will inform Ofsted of any allegations of serious harm or abuse by any person living, working or looking after the children at the premises (whether the allegations relate to harm or abuse committed on the premises or elsewhere)
- The setting will also notify Ofsted of the action taken in respect of the allegations.
- Where an allegation is upheld, the setting will make a referral to the DBS, in accordance with our responsibilities under the Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.
- Where there is an indication or evidence to suggest that a member of staff failed to execute their duty to safeguard a child(ren) at the setting or elsewhere he/she will be subject to the settings safeguarding and/or disciplinary procedure.
- The policy will be implemented in conjunction with the Safeguarding Procedure.
- Safeguarding children (child protection) concerns will be confidential and shared only on a need to know basis.

Concerns regarding Safeguarding Children will be directed to the following in accordance with the LSCB's policy and the requirments of the EYFS:

Lincolnshire County Council Children's Service customer service centre – Office hours: Tel 01522 782111 Out of hours:01522 782333

Where there is an allegation against a member of staff or person living or working on the premises we will also liaise directly with LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer Direct Line 01522 554674

Lincolnshire Police – 0300 111 0300 Ofsted – 0300 123 1231

Swallows Nest Pre-school will implement the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children's Board Escalation, if there are concerns that a referral to the Customer Service Centre (CSC) has not been dealt with appropriately

This policy should be read in conjunction with our Safeguarding procedure which sets out our processes for responding to concerns