



Safeguarding + Child protection policy

Our Aim

Here at Little Willows, we strongly believe that children's welfare is paramount and should not be compromised. As Practitioners our job is to provide an environment, free from fear and abuse, and where children feel safe and able to thrive.

At Little Willows Day Nursery we work with children, parents, external agencies, and the community to ensure the welfare and safety of children and to give them the very best start in life. Children have the right to be treated with respect, be helped to thrive and to be safe from any abuse in whatever form.

We support the children within our care, protect them from maltreatment and have robust procedures in place to prevent the impairment of children's health and development. In our setting we strive to protect children from the risk of radicalisation, and we promote acceptance and tolerance of other beliefs and cultures (please refer to our equality and diversity policy for further information). Safeguarding is a much wider subject than the elements covered within this single policy, therefore this document should be used in conjunction with the nursery's other policies and procedures.

To ensure that we safeguard all children, Little Willows works with the Wiltshire Safeguarding vulnerable people partnership (SVPP) and ensures that all adults that work with and look after children know how to put procedures into practice confidently.

Little Willows has a designated safeguarding lead. This person is responsible for liaising with the Integrated front door/multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) within social care and Ofsted in any child protection matter.

Corsham - The Little Willows Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Jane Barber (Nursery Manager)

Corsham - The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is Lauren Paterson (Deputy Manager)

Bath - The Little Willows Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Ellie Ferne (Nursery Manager)

Bath - The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is Chloe Fairbrother + Michaela Leakey (Deputy Managers)

Little Willows safeguarding procedures comply with all relevant legislation and other guidance or advice from the Wiltshire Safeguarding vulnerable people partnership (SVPP) which complies with the Wiltshire Safeguarding Vulnerable People Partnership as displayed in the setting on the flowchart.

Legal framework and definition of safeguarding

- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Childcare Act 2006

Reviewed June 2025 due to an incident.

- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Children and Social Work Act 2017
- The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) 2021
- Working together to safeguard children 2018
- Keeping children safe in education 2019
- Data Protection Act 2018
- What to do if you're worried a child is being abused 2015
- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, in relation to this policy is defined as:

Protecting children from maltreatment

Preventing the impairment of children's health or development

Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care

Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes. (Definition taken from the HM Government document 'Working together to safeguard children 2018').

Staff training & Support...

- Staffs are given a full induction when they start work with us. This includes, Policy & Procedures, an in-depth Show round & a Fire alarm practice.
- Staffs are required to take part in E-learning courses/ modules when starting with us and continue to do refresher training within 3 years to continue to uphold up to date training. Including online prevent training. The DSL and DDSL have E-learning in advanced Safeguarding training.
- The DSL and DDSL are required to take part in appropriate training with the Local Authority & to update training as deemed appropriate.
- Staffs receive regular supervisions with their Line Manager, with support in Child Protection issues & offered appropriate support/guidance.
- There is time at each staff meeting to discuss any concerns in a confidential environment.
- All staffs are made aware of the statutory requirement that is required of them in safeguarding children & the procedure they must follow in respect of a disclosure or discovery.

What we do to safeguard children and Staff...

When a child joins our setting, we ask for a record of personal details about the child as per our statutory requirement. We ask for the following:

- Childs full name.
- Address.
- Gender.
- Date of birth.
- Name of parental responsibility.
- Legal contacts.
- Who the child lives with. *If this changes, please let management know.*
- Any other professional involved with the child and any other supporting paperwork.

We ask parents/ carers to update all the above information plus the additional information we collect as and when circumstances change. We also send out all folders annually to the rooms to check with families. All children's personal information is stored in the office, in a secure filing cabinet.

If we have any Safeguarding information that needs to be passed onto other people, we ensure that this is on a "need to know" basis. If we need to share details with another setting or School, we gain permission from the Parents/Carers before we go ahead. If there is a need to share information with outside agencies, we ensure we have permission from the Parents/Carers unless we feel a child is in immediate danger, then we will refer to our "Duty of Care statement".

All staff are carefully recruited through a formal interview process, collection of at least two references and a full DBS check upon entry, and then regular supervisions and appraisals from there on.

Staff are mindful of how and where they touch children, given their age and emotional understanding. Unnecessary or potentially inappropriate physical contact is always avoided.

Where possible we encourage children to carry out personal tasks for themselves, such as sun cream & changing of soiled clothes. Where it is essential that an adult carries out personal tasks, we ask staff to wear appropriate protective clothing & if appropriate for two adults to be present.

Site and premises

As part of our duty of care and ensuring your child/ren's physical safety, the gates to the car park are no longer accessible to parents/carers during the hours of 9.00am till 5.00pm as during this time the garden will be in use.

*Visitors and tradesman please see visitors' policy.

Our prevent duty...

We understand that part of our duty of care is to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation. At Little Willows, we ensure that staff take part in staff training with e-learning to support their knowledge and understanding around radicalisation and the prevent duty. Day to day we provide opportunities for children to embrace fundamental British values to support them in building a resilience so that they have the choice to challenge extremist views, but safely debate controversial issues. We support British values in everyday learning, using our curriculum and national holidays and celebrations as a base to support education. We also acknowledge and celebrate festivals and celebrations from other countries and religions to ensure that children have opportunities to celebrate diversity amongst friends.

Signs of radicalisation

- isolating themselves from family and friends
- talking as if from a scripted speech
- unwillingness or inability to discuss their views
- a sudden disrespectful attitude towards others
- increased levels of anger
- increased secretiveness, especially around internet use

Female genital mutilation

“Female genital mutilation (FGM) is a procedure where the female genitals are deliberately cut, injured or changed, but where there's no medical reason for this to be done.” Taken from NHS website.

Other known terms/ names:

- *Female genital cutting (FGC)*
- *Female circumcision (FC)*
- *Local Arabic terms- 'Tahor' and 'Sunna'*

Little Willows has a duty to not only protect children from harm but also to report suspected abuse. If we have any concerns that a child is subject to FGM then staff are required to report this to the DSL/DDSL, unless it is an immediate concern where staff are required to ring 999.

Possible Signs that FGM is going to/ or have taken place on a child:

- Unusual trips/ 'special' holidays planned- arranging vaccinations and booking prolonged holiday
- If known to us that parent has also been subject to FGM (logged in red book)
- Identifying vulnerable families
- Children referring to FGM or its other given names
- Child talking about a special ceremony/ procedure that is going to take place
- Emotional distress when an adult approaches the genital area
- Repeated infections in genital area
- Problems passing urine or/ and incontinence
- Sore/ inflamed genital areas

Dealing with a concern

- On discovering an allegation of abuse, the DSL or Deputy immediately refers the case to the integrated front door/MASH team.
- Where actual or suspected abuse comes to the attention of staff, they are required to report this to the DSL/DDSL immediately.
- All staffs are encouraged and supported to trust their professional judgement, and if they suspect abuse has taken place, to report this.
- Full written records of all reported incidents are produced and maintained. Information recorded includes full; details of the alleged incident, details of all the parties involved, any evidence of explanations offered by interested parties, relevant dates, times and locations and any supporting information or evidence from members of staff. Little Willows demonstrates great care in distinguishing fact and opinion when recording suspected incidents of child abuse.
- The Manager is responsible for ensuring that written records are dated, signed and kept confidentially.
- If an allegation of abuse is made against the Manager/ DSL, the Registered Person is informed as soon as possible. They then assume responsibility for the situation.

External injuries to nursery disclosure

When children are dropped off to nursery and a mark/injury has been noticed while parents are still on the premises an external injury form is to be completed. If a mark/injury has been noticed by a member of staff once the child has entered the nursery and parents have left, then a phone call is to be made by senior/room leader/management to the parents to establish where the mark/injury has come from and how it happened. If the mark/injury is recent then an accident form will be completed by the staff in the

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child's room during their session and an external injury form is to be completed by the parents when they collect their child.

Allegations made against a staff member

At Little Willows, we take all allegations made by others very seriously and will do all we can to protect children in our care. Located in our staff room is low level concerns forms which will be recorded in writing of the context of the concern then given to the DSL/DDSL then dealt with accordingly.

Any allegations made are required to be reported to the Manager who then has a duty to contact all appropriate services such as LADO (Local authority designated officer) formally known as DOFA, MASH TEAM and Ofsted. The Designated officer will take the lead on how to then deal appropriately with the allegation. The police maybe called, and an investigation maybe appropriate.

Any children involved in alleged incidents are comforted and reassured. In circumstances where a child makes an allegation or a disclosure, staff are required to:

- Treat the matter seriously and re-assure the child if necessary.
- Staff will react to what the child tells staff with belief.
- Make clear that staff are not allowed to keep secrets.
- Tell only those who need to know.
- Seek advice if in doubt.
- Keep a careful watch on the child.
- Staff to keep an accurate record of what they have noticed, what has happened and what staff have done.
- Use the children's words when writing down their disclosures.
- If a child has made a disclosure to staff, then they will tell the child what action they must take so that they understand what is happening around them.

Staffs are asked not to:

- Promise to keep the matter secret.
- Contact parents – this is the job of the social services Department.
- Interrogate children or ask leading questions.
- Speak with anyone about whom allegations are made, even if the allegations are about a colleague or another adult.

Little Willows always considers the safety and welfare of a child or young person when making decisions to share information about them. Where there is a concern that the child is suffering or at risk of harm, the child's safety and welfare must be the overriding factor.

What we will do if we have concerns regarding a child...

If the staff team have any concerns that a child is being mistreated either; physically, mentally, emotionally, sexually, bullied, neglected, or is at risk of radicalisation or FGM then we action the following procedure:

- If you believe that the child is at immediate risk of harm, then you must notify (where possible) the Child protection Officer or Deputy Officer and contact 999 emergency services.

- In incidents where concerns are raised by staff, they are asked to write a detailed account of the concern, any conversation with the child or any physical signs on a children's concern log. This should be passed onto the Child protection officer or deputy officer at the first possible chance, to be stored in the concerns file.
- The matter is to be kept on a "need to know" basis.
- If a referral is made to an outside agency, the Child protection officer will provide details of the outcome to the referee as appropriate.

It is not the staff's job to investigate this matter. It is the duty of the Child protection officer to gather enough information to decide whether to contact social services. The Social Services Department and the Police have a duty to investigate cases of suspected abuse and radicalisation. Those who work in the education service have a duty to co-operate with any such investigation. This might involve providing information, monitoring the child or, in some cases, attending a Child Protection Conference.

How to document...

When providing written accounts of disclosures/ concerns we ask that you seek out the CPO who will provide you with the concerns form to complete. In the account you should log dates, times, adults present, and detailed conversations if a disclosure. This account should be written as a factual piece of information so that we can remain impartial as appropriate. If you need to log physical markings etc. then we ask for staff to use a body map to make these logs.

Referring Allegations to Chid Protection Agencies

We adhere to the procedure set out in the Wiltshire Safeguarding vulnerable people partnership procedure folder. It is our duty to report any concerns we may have regarding the children in our care. This is primarily to safeguard the children.

In these cases:

- Contact is made without delay, to the Integrated front door/MASH team.
- The Manager or Child Protection Officer communicates as much information about the allegation and related incidents as is consistent with advice given by Integrated front door/MASH team and the Police.
- The Child protection Officer is required to inform the Designated Officer (DO) of all allegations made towards anybody on the premises within 24hrs of disclosure/ incident. The DO works with the Child protection Officer to discuss and agree next steps. The DO is responsible for chairing strategy meetings with the Police and Senior Management, plan and agree any investigations, maintain an information database in relation to all allegations and producing reports as required.
- At all times, the safety, protection, and interests of children concerned takes precedence. The Manager and Staff work with and support Parents/Carers as far as they are legally able.
- Little Willows assists Social Services, the Police, and the DO, as far as we are able, during any investigation of abuse or neglect. This includes disclosing written and verbal information and evidence.

- Ofsted is informed immediately of any allegations of abuse against a member of Staff, Student or Volunteer, or any abuse that is alleged to have taken place on the premises during a visit or outing.
- Ofsted is informed of any allegation of harm or abuse by any person with access to the premises or looking after children on the premises (whether relating to harm or abuse committed on the premises or elsewhere), or any other abuse which is alleged to have taken place on the premises and the action taken in respect of these allegations. This is done within 14 days of the allegations being made.

Contact details for all agencies...

Ofsted
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M12WD
Telephone: 0300 123 1231

- Integrated front door/Multi agency safeguarding hub (MASH): 0300 4560108
- Emergency duty team: 0300 4560100
- If a child is in immediate danger: 999

Other policies & Procedures that relate to Safeguarding...

- E-Safety
- Lost Child
- Uncollected Child
- Risk Assessing
- Whistle blowing
- Safer recruitment
- Use of mobile phones and cameras
- Visitors' policy