



Safeguarding Policy

Updated September 2024

Briar Dene Childcare is committed to ensuring that every child is safe, happy, and able to learn in an environment free from harm. The safety and well-being of all children in our care is our highest priority, and we strive to promote a culture of safeguarding throughout our preschool community. This policy outlines our approach to safeguarding and protecting children, as well as the responsibilities of staff, parents, and other adults involved with the nursery.

Aims of the Safeguarding Policy

- To protect children from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- To promote a safe environment where children can learn and grow.
- To ensure that staff are well-trained and aware of their responsibilities regarding safeguarding.
- To provide clear procedures for identifying and responding to concerns about a child's welfare.
- To promote a culture of openness and trust where children can report concerns safely.
- To ensure that all adults working with children adhere to professional standards and maintain a high level of awareness regarding child protection issues.

Legal Framework

This policy has been developed in line with the following guidance and legislation:

- **Children Act 1989 and 2004**
- **The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006**
- **Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (and any updates)**
- **Keeping Children Safe in Education (2023)**
- **The Prevent Duty (2015)**
- **Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checks**

Safeguarding refers to the action we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. This includes protecting children from abuse (physical, emotional, sexual), neglect, exploitation, bullying, radicalisation, and ensuring they have access to appropriate health care, education, and support services.

Staff Responsibilities

All staff, volunteers, and visitors at Briar Dene Childcare must:

Briardene Nursery School, 2 Fulwood Ave, Tarleton, Preston, PR4 6RP

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- Be vigilant and report any concerns about a child's welfare immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or deputy.
- Treat all children with respect, dignity, and fairness.
- Follow the guidelines for physical contact with children and ensure that interactions are always appropriate and respectful.
- Ensure confidentiality is maintained when dealing with safeguarding concerns, sharing information only with relevant authorities or individuals.
- Attend safeguarding training and participate in regular refresher courses as required.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (Zoe) is responsible for overseeing safeguarding matters within the preschool. The DSL is trained to a high standard in child protection and ensures that the safeguarding policy is followed. The DSL will also:

- Act as the first point of contact for any concerns about child protection.
- Ensure all staff are aware of their safeguarding duties.
- Liaise with external agencies, such as social services or the police, as necessary.
- Keep records of all safeguarding concerns and actions taken.
- Provide regular safeguarding updates to the preschool management team.

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) will assist in safeguarding duties when the DSL is unavailable and will take on the role if the DSL is not available.

Reporting Concerns

If any staff member, volunteer, parent, or other adult has concerns about a child's safety or well-being, they must:

- Report the concern immediately to the DSL or DDSL.
- If the DSL is unavailable, or if the person concerned feels that the matter is not being handled appropriately, they should contact local child protection services or the police directly.
- Ensure that any concerns are documented in writing, using the nursery's safeguarding reporting procedures.

Safer Recruitment

Briar Dene Childcare is committed to safe recruitment practices. All staff and volunteers will be subject to rigorous background checks, including:

- DBS checks (Enhanced Disclosure).
- References from previous employers or professional contacts.
- A full recruitment interview to assess suitability for working with children.

Staff Training and Development

All staff at Briar Dene Childcare will undergo safeguarding training:

- Induction training, including safeguarding responsibilities.

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- Regular updates on current safeguarding practices and legislation.
- Specialist training for the DSL and DDSL on how to handle complex child protection cases.
- Access to ongoing professional development regarding safeguarding.

Child Protection Procedures

If a staff member or volunteer has concerns about a child's safety or well-being, they must follow these steps:

1. Report the concern to the DSL or DDSL immediately.
2. The DSL will assess the concern, decide on the necessary actions, and may make a referral to external agencies such as social services or the police.
3. The DSL will ensure all documentation regarding the concern is accurate and securely stored.
4. The child's well-being will be monitored, and the preschool will maintain communication with relevant agencies.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality is paramount, but the safety of the child is the priority. Information about a safeguarding concern will be shared only with relevant staff and external agencies on a need-to-know basis. Any concerns regarding the handling of sensitive information will be addressed promptly by the DSL.

Parental Involvement

We encourage parents to work in partnership with the preschool to promote the safety and well-being of their child. Parents will:

- Be provided with information about our safeguarding policy on enrolment.
- Be encouraged to report any concerns they may have about their child's safety.
- Be involved in any action taken in cases where it is safe and appropriate to do so.

Preventing Radicalisation

We are committed to promoting British values and preventing the radicalisation of children. We will:

- Provide children with opportunities to develop a sense of identity and belonging.
- Promote respect for all cultures and backgrounds.
- Educate children about how to stay safe online and in the community.
- Work in partnership with external agencies, such as the police, to prevent radicalisation.

This safeguarding policy ensures that the preschool provides a safe and supportive environment for all children, protecting them from harm and always promoting their welfare.

Review of Policy:

This policy will be reviewed annually (September 2025), or as needed, to ensure that it remains relevant and effective in meeting the evolving needs of the children, families, and staff within the nursery.

Name:	Position:	Signed:	Date:
David Birkbeck	Owner		
Kayleigh Tydd	Director		
Greg Bamber	Nominated Individual		
Zoe Tydd	Manager & DSL		
Abbie Lloyd	Deputy Manager		
Jade Radcliffe	Second Deputy Manager		
Pamela Lear	Practitioner		
Diane Jones	Practitioner		
Emily Gautrey	Practitioner		