



# **Noah's Ark Pre-school**

*Supporting children and families with God's love and practical care*

## **Safeguarding Children – Overview**

Safeguarding is a term which is broader than 'Child Protection' as it also includes prevention.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

Whilst Local Authorities play a lead role, safeguarding children and protecting them from harm is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who has contact with children and families has a role to play.

We consider that the welfare of the child is paramount. Members of staff, Trustees and volunteers commit to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for children. We do this by responding promptly and appropriately when Safeguarding concerns are raised in accordance with our Child Protection Policy and Low-Level Concerns Procedure. We also develop the following areas;

- Building a culture of safety
- Raising awareness of child abuse issues

Noah's Ark Preschool works with children, their families, other agencies, and the community taking all reasonable measures to ensure that the risks of harm are minimised and that children have the very best start in life. Where there are concerns about welfare, we will take appropriate action to address them, working to agreed local policies and procedures and in full partnership with other local agencies.

We recognise that safeguarding children is vital for registered childcare providers, as part of the legal requirements of their Ofsted registration, and for charities, as charity trustees have a duty of care towards the children with whom they have contact. We know that having safeguards in place within an organisation not only protects and promotes the welfare of children but also enhances the confidence of staff, volunteers, parents and carers, managers, trustees, and the public.

For the purposes of Child Protection legislation, the term 'Child' refers to anyone up to the age of 18 years old. A young person is defined as aged 16-19 years old. At Noah's Ark Preschool, they may be a student, member of staff, volunteer, or parent. An adult at risk is defined as a person who is in need or may need community care by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness and who is or may be unable to



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take care of themselves or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation. (No Secrets – Department of Health 2015).

We believe children have a right to play and be safe. We take steps to promote their safety.

## **Policies and Framework**

Although there are many areas that contribute to us creating a safe environment for the children, our Child Protection policy is central to this. The Child Protection policy should be read in conjunction with all our policies and procedures.

The policies that contribute to creating a safe environment include:

- Child Protection Policy
- Low Level Concerns Procedure
- Safer Recruitment and Selection Policy and Procedure
- Induction Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Mobile Phone, Camera, and E-Safety policy
- Training Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Fire Safety and Emergency Evacuation Procedure
- Behaviour Policy
- Arrival and Departure Procedure
- Trips and Outings Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Inclusion Policy

There are also other areas that contribute. For instance, risk assessment, keeping the premises secure, child registration information, listening to concerns from parents and carers and keeping Ofsted up to date. Some of these are considered in more detail below.

## **Building a Culture of Safety**

Noah's Ark Preschool is committed to building a 'Culture of Safety' in which children are protected from abuse, neglect, and harm in all aspects of its service delivery.

### **1. Working with children**

We believe in equipping children with a range of skills, information and confidence that will help them to protect themselves in the community. Staff will act as role models and listen to children. We will discuss in an age-appropriate way:

- Choices
- Setting rules and boundaries



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- Values
- Expressing feelings
- Rights of a child
- Healthy relationships
- Friendships
- Appropriate touch
- Keeping safe online
- Recognising and assessing risk
- Problem solving and decision-making
- How and where to get help if needed

## **2. Staff and Volunteers**

We ensure that all staff are trained to understand our safeguarding policies and procedures and that parents are made aware of them too. All staff are familiar with their duties and obligations under the Prevent Duty and our planning and learning is guided by our Prevent Duty document. All staff are confident to ask questions in relation to any safeguarding concerns. They know not to take things at face value but can be respectfully sceptical. Staff training forms part of the induction and is updated regularly. We provide adequate and appropriate staffing resources to meet the needs of children. We work at a higher ratio of staff to children than the legal minimum and the layout of the rooms allows constant supervision of all children. Unqualified volunteers do not work unsupervised.

The Trustees have appointed a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and deputies to take the lead responsibility for safeguarding children within the setting and to liaise with local statutory children's services agencies as appropriate. They must attend a Child Protection training course annually and staff members know to report any Child Protection concerns to them.

Staff, volunteers, and Trustees recognise that they need to conduct themselves in an appropriate, open, and transparent way to ensure a safer environment to all. One of the ways of ensuring this is by following Noah's Ark Preschool policies and procedures, including our Staff Code of Conduct. We operate regular staff supervision sessions to ensure that concerns can be discussed and addressed. Please see our Staff Supervision Policy for further information.

## **3. Visitors**

We have procedures for recording the details of visitors to the setting. We take security steps to ensure that we can control who enters the setting so that no unauthorised person has unsupervised access to the children. All visitors are required to report to the Noah's Ark Office on arrival at the setting and to sign the Visitors Section on the Register indicating their time of arrival and departure. There is a security lock on the internal door leading to the rest of the Church building and a CCTV camera covering the entrance to the setting.



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## **Raising Awareness of Child Abuse**

Noah's Ark Preschool is committed to promoting awareness of child abuse throughout its training and learning programmes for staff. We are also committed to empowering young children and promoting their right to be strong, resilient, and listened to.

### **1. Training**

We seek out training opportunities for all adults in the setting to ensure that they receive regular Safeguarding updates, can recognise signs of abuse and are aware of Local Authority guidelines for making referrals. Safeguarding is a regular item of the agenda for staff meetings.

We ensure that all staff have Child Protection training and that their knowledge is refreshed annually.

### **2. Curriculum**

We introduce key elements of Keeping Children Safe into our programme to promote the personal, social, and emotional development of all children.

We create a culture of value and respect for individuals and have an awareness and positive regards for children's heritage arising from their ethnicity, languages spoken at home and cultural and social background.

We ensure that the curriculum is delivered in a way that is developmentally appropriate for the children.

### **3. Support for Families**

We believe in building trusting and supportive relationships with families, staff, and volunteers. We make our Safeguarding role and responsibilities clear to parents e.g., reporting concerns, sharing information, monitoring children, and liaising with the Local Authority.

We will continue to welcome children and their families whilst any Safeguarding investigations are carried out. We will follow Child Protection plans as set by Social Care and will support the child and their family.

Confidential records are shared with parents or carers in accordance with the Confidentiality Policy and only if appropriate under the guidance of the Bristol Safeguarding board.



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Reviewed by Corinne McIntosh 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Signed .....Date .....

Print Name .....Role.....

Signed .....Date .....

Print Name .....Role.....

## For Further Information

- **Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>
- Requirements regarding the recruitment and selection of charity trustees are set out in the following guidance, '**Finding new trustees: what charities need to know**'  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/704644/CC30.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/704644/CC30.pdf)
- **South West Child Protection Procedures** – provides detailed online information on all aspects of child protection  
<https://www.proceduresonline.com/swcpp/>
- **Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership** sets out local arrangements and requirements for child protection  
<https://bristolsafeguarding.org/children/>
- **EYFS 2021 Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2>