



Introduction

In practical terms, safeguarding refers to the comprehensive policies and procedures that nurseries, schools, and governing bodies implement to ensure the safety and well-being of all children. This includes creating a safe environment, promoting welfare, and preventing harm. On the other hand, child protection specifically focuses on the measures and actions taken to protect individual children who are suffering or are at risk of significant harm.

Explanation of the Difference: Safeguarding is a broad term encompassing all actions taken to ensure the general safety and well-being of children in any setting. It includes proactive measures to prevent abuse and promote welfare. Child protection, however, is a subset of safeguarding and involves responding to specific cases where a child is at risk or already suffering from harm. Essentially, safeguarding is about prevention, while child protection is about intervention.

Statement of Intent

Every individual who works with children has a shared responsibility to ensure their safety. To provide the right support at the right time, it is crucial that everyone who interacts with children plays their part in recognizing concerns, sharing relevant information, and taking prompt action. The responsibility to protect children is collective; no single practitioner or individual holds sole responsibility. The welfare, safety, and protection of children are paramount, and this commitment is clearly communicated to our families from the very first day.

Our policy is informed by and adheres to the following:

- The Children Acts of 1989, 2004, and 2006
- The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- What to Do If You're Worried a Child Is Being Abused
- Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)
 - Prevent Duty Guidance
 - The Revised EYFS
- Information Sharing Advice for Safeguarding Practitioners
 - The Handling of DBS Certificate Information
 - Keeping Children Safe in Education
 - The Early Years Inspection Handbook
- Inspecting Safeguarding in Early Years, Education, and Skills Settings
- Criminal Record Checks for Childminders and Childcare Workers
 - Disqualification Under the Childcare Act 2006

Voice of the Children

Children have expressed clear expectations for an effective safeguarding system, and these expectations should guide the actions of practitioners. According to "Working Together to Safeguard Children" (pg. 12), children need:

- **Vigilance:** Adults who notice when something is troubling them.
- **Understanding and Action:** To comprehend what is happening, to be heard and understood, and to see that understanding translated into action.
- **Stability:** The opportunity to develop a stable, trusting relationship with those helping them.
 - **Respect:** To be treated with the assumption of competence.
- **Information and Engagement:** To be informed and involved in procedures, decisions, concerns, and plans.
 - **Explanation:** To be informed of the outcomes of assessments and decisions, especially when their views are not fully supported.
 - **Support:** To receive support as individuals, as well as members of their families.
 - **Advocacy:** To have an advocate assist in expressing their views.
- **Protection:** To be safeguarded from all forms of abuse and discrimination and to have special protection and assistance if they are refugees.

Mission

Our mission is to create an environment where children feel safe, valued, and comfortable, regardless of their race, language, religion, culture, gender, or geographical background. We prioritize building children's confidence and self-esteem to help them integrate into society.

We collaborate with parents and caregivers to enhance their understanding of and commitment to their children's welfare. We also aim to establish strong professional relationships with other agencies involved with children and families, ensuring open communication and the free exchange of information concerning the welfare of children. Our approach is characterized by openness and honesty in our relationships with families and children.

Our Procedures

- **Designated Safeguarding Lead:** We have a designated individual responsible for coordinating safeguarding issues within our setting.
- **Adequate Staffing:** We ensure that there are sufficient and appropriate staffing resources to meet the needs of children.
- **Rigorous Vetting:** New staff undergo thorough vetting procedures, including enhanced DBS checks.
 - **Supervision During Checks:** While checks are being processed, staff are carefully supervised. Volunteers and trainees are never left unsupervised, and risk assessments are conducted.

- Visitor Management: We verify the identity and record the details of all visitors to our setting.
- Secure Environment: We maintain secure facilities to control access, ensuring that no unauthorized person can access the children.

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