

1a. Safeguarding Children Policy

EYFS: Section 3 –
Safeguarding and Welfare
requirements

At Little Oaks Children's 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 inclusion and equality policy for further information). Safeguarding children is everybody's responsibility. All staff, students, any supply staff, and visitors are made aware of and asked to adhere to, the policy.

This policy should be read in its entirety, however for ease, please see below key information.

Contact Details:

Concerns relating to a child or young person:

Children's SPA (Single Point of Access): 03004709100 (Mon-Fri 8am-5pm)

Emergency Duty Team (Out of Hours): 01483517898

cspa@surreycc.gov.uk (for non-urgent queries)

edt.ssd@surreycc.gov.uk (for out of hours queries)

Where professionals are concerned that a child may be at imminent risk of significant harm please call 999 for police or make an URGENT Request For Support.

Concerns relating to an adult who works with children:

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO): 0300 123 1650

Further Contacts:

Ofsted: 0300 123 4234

Non-emergency police: 101

Government helpline for extremism concerns: 020 7340 7264

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) at Little Oaks Children's Nursery is:

Jade Holyoake

The Nominated Person at Little Oaks Children's Nursery is:

James Horn

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead at Little Oaks Children's Nursery:

Alicia O'Connell – Deputy Manager

Safeguarding Lead at Little Oaks Children's Nursery:

Ann-Marie Johnson (Preschool)

Klaudia Sobuta (Toddlers)

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 including:

- Online safety
- Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery
- Prevent Duty and Radicalisation
- Domestic Violence, Honour Based Violence (HBV) and Forced Marriages
- Looked After Children
- Monitoring staff behaviour
- Social networking
- Mobile phone and electronic device use
- Safe recruitment of staff
- Disciplinary
- Grievance
- Promoting positive behaviour

LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND DEFINITION OF SAFEGUARDING

- The Children Act 1989 and 2004
- The Childcare Act 2006 (amended in 2018)
- 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 2022
- Inspecting safeguarding in Early years, Education and Skills setting 2021
- Prevent Duty 2015
- What to do if you're worried a child is being abused 2015
- The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.
- The Data Protection Act 1984, 1998 and 2018
- The Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000
- Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (As amended by the serious crime act 2015)
- Freedom of Information Act 2012

- The Human Rights Act 1998
- The Police Act 1997
- The Sexual Offences Act 2003

Relevant non-statutory guidance:

Child sexual exploitation, DfE 2017
 Information sharing, DfE 2015
 What to do if you're worried a child is being abused, DfE 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').

POLICY INTENTION

To safeguard children and promote their welfare we will:

- Create an environment to encourage children to develop a positive self-image
- Provide positive role models and develop a safe culture where staff are confident to raise concerns about professional conduct
- Ensure all staff are able to identify the signs and indicators of abuse, including the softer signs of abuse, and know what actions to take
- Encourage children to develop a sense of independence and autonomy in a way that is appropriate to their age and stage of development
- Provide a safe and secure environment for all children
- Promote tolerance and acceptance of different beliefs, cultures, and communities
- Help children to understand how they can influence and participate in decision-making and how to promote British values through play, discussion, and role modelling
- Always listen to children
- Provide an environment where practitioners are confident to identify where children and families may need intervention and seek the help they need
- Share information with other agencies as appropriate.

The nursery staff are aware that abuse does occur in our society, and we are vigilant in identifying signs of abuse and reporting concerns. Our practitioners have a duty to protect and promote the welfare of children. Staff working on the frontline with children and families are often the first people to identify a concern, observe changes in a child's

behaviour or receive information relating to indicators of abuse. They may well be the first people in whom children confide information that may suggest abuse or to spot changes in a child's behaviour which may indicate abuse.

Our prime responsibility is the welfare and well-being of each child in our care. As such we believe we have a duty to the children, parents, and staff to act quickly and responsibly in any instance that may come to our attention. This includes sharing information with any relevant agencies such as local authority services for children's social care, health professionals including health visitors or the police. All staff will work with other agencies in the best interest of the child, including as part of a multi-agency team, where needed.

The nursery aims to:

- Keep the child at the centre of all we do, providing sensitive interactions that develops and builds children's well-being, confidence and resilience. We support children to develop an awareness of how to keep themselves safe, healthy and develop positive relationships.
- Ensure staff are trained right from induction to understand the safeguarding and child protection policy and procedures, are alert to identify possible signs of abuse (including the signs known as softer signs of abuse), understand what is meant by child protection and are aware of the different ways in which children can be harmed, including by other children (peer on peer) through bullying or discriminatory behaviour
- Be aware of the increased vulnerability of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) isolated families and vulnerabilities in families including the impact of toxic trio on children and adverse childhood experiences (ACE's).
- Ensure that all staff feel confident and supported to act in the best interest of the child, maintaining professional curiosity around welfare of children and share information and seek the help that the child may need at the earliest opportunity.
- Ensure that all staff are familiar and updated regularly with child protection training and procedures and kept informed of changes to local/national procedures, including thorough annual safeguarding newsletters and updates
- Make any child protection referrals in a timely way, sharing relevant information as necessary in line with procedures set out by Surrey County Council and Surrey Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB).
- Ensure that information is shared only with those people who need to know in order to protect the child and act in their best interest
- Keep the setting safe online, we refer to 'Safeguarding children and protecting professionals in early years settings: online safety considerations are use appropriate filters, checks and safeguards, monitoring access at all times and maintain safeguards around the use of technology by staff, parents and visitors in the setting.
- Ensure that staff identify, minimise and manage risks while caring for children.
- Ensure that children are never placed at risk while in the care of nursery staff
- Identify changes in staff behaviour and act on these as per the Staff Behaviour Policy

- Take any appropriate action relating to allegations of serious harm or abuse against any person working with children or living or working on the nursery premises including reporting such allegations to Ofsted and other relevant authorities including the local authority.
- Ensure parents are fully aware of our safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures when they register with the nursery and are kept informed of all updates when they occur
- Regularly review and update this policy with staff and parents where appropriate and make sure it complies with any legal requirements and any guidance or procedures issued by Surrey County Council and SSCB

We will support children by offering reassurance, comfort and sensitive interactions. We will devise activities according to individual circumstances to enable children to develop confidence and self-esteem within their peer group and support them to learn how to keep themselves safe.

EFFECTIVE FAMILY RESILIENCE AND SAFEGUARDING IN SURREY:

The Surrey Effective Family Resilience Windscreen



Phone: 0300 470 9100

Email: csmash@surreycc.gov.uk
for non-urgent queries

or **csmash@surreycc.gcsx.gov.uk**
for confidential referrals

Universal:	Early Help:	Targeted Help:	Specialist:
Children and young people who make good overall progress in most areas of development and receive appropriate universal services, such as health care and education. They may also use leisure and play facilities, housing or voluntary sector services.	Children and young people whose needs require some extra support. A single universal or targeted service or two services are likely to be involved; these services should work together. A Team Around the Family meeting to share information and agree an Early Help Plan to support the child and family is helpful. No need for specialist services.	Vulnerable Children. Children and young people whose needs are more complex. This refers to the range, depth or significance of the needs. A number of these indicators would need to be present to indicate need at Level 3. More than one service is involved, using a Team Around the Family approach, Early Help Plan and a Lead Practitioner to co-ordinate multi-agency support. Targeted Early Help can support at this level.	Children and young people whose needs are complex and enduring and cross many domains. More than one service is normally involved, with a co-ordinated multi-agency approach and a Lead Professional, commonly in a non-statutory role. At times statutory intervention may be required.

<https://www.surreyscb.org.uk/>

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/family-information-service>

In Surrey, our approach to safeguarding is changing. The aim is to work in true partnership with families and provide them with the help and support they need so that children can remain living safely within their families.

The Effective Family Resilience model is for everyone who works with children and young people and their families, whether in a statutory or voluntary capacity, and can be found here:

<https://www.surreyscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Effective-family-resilience-SSCB-Final-March-2019.pdf>

The Early Help approach will be called “Family Resilience” and the Social Work practice model will be called “Family Safeguarding”. Within this, four levels of need have been identified as shown in the above windscreen.

SURREY CHILDREN’S SPA (SINGLE POINT OF ACCESS)

The Surrey Children’s SPA is the umbrella term for the front door to support, information and advice for residents, families and those who work with children in Surrey. The SPA is the conduit for access to services at Level 3 and 4 of Effective Family Resilience, it also provides direct information, advice and guidance to residents and people who work with children in Surrey about where and how to find the appropriate support for families. Surrey Children’s Services are committed to children and their families receiving the right help at the right time and SPA will better enable Surrey to fulfil this commitment.

All requests for support and contacts with SPA will be directed through the contact centre to the Children’s Request for Support team. The team will perform initial triage on all contact from members of the public and professionals. Where contact details clearly indicate that a response is required from a specific team they will send the service request to the appropriate team to respond.

CHILD PROTECTION CONSULTATION LINE FOR EARLY YEARS SETTINGS:

The aim of the Child Protection Consultation line is to support Schools and Early Years Settings to ensure we are able to direct you to the most appropriate service that can meet the child and family’s needs.

If you are unsure that a child or family in your setting warrants a child protection request for support and would like to discuss your concerns, please contact the Child Protection Consultation Line before completing the Request for Support Form. This will enable families to receive the most appropriate support in a timely manner.

The Consultation line staff will give advice only. If they advise a request for support is required, they will record this on the child’s record and the referrers call will be forwarded to the Contact Centre. If they advise Early Help support, they will note the same on the child’s record and forward to Early Help Services. The referrer should note on the Request for Support form that a consultation has taken place with the Consultation Line and that they were advised to make a child protection request for

support. This will enable the appropriate support to be given to the child and family in a timely manner.

The Consultation Line will expect that you continue to consult the Effective Family Resilience Guidance, Surrey Child Protection Procedures and your DSL.

The Child Protection Consultation Line is operational between Monday and Friday, 9am to 5pm on 0300 470 9100 and select the consultation line option.

PARENTAL CONSENT:

The success of Effective Family Resilience model in Surrey is based on having strong relationships with families and we have to start this relationship in an open and transparent way. It is asked that everyone who seeks support for a family via the SPA has express consent from the parents (or Gillick competent young person) when submitting their request.

There will be some exceptional circumstances whereby to speak to the parents would likely cause harm to the child, and in such a situation, it is not expected that consent is sought.

When people request support from SPA, it is implicit that the family is not being “handed over”, but that the request is for children’s services to join the existing network around the family.

The signs and indicators listed below may not necessarily indicate that a child has been abused, but will help us to recognise that something may be wrong, especially if a child shows a number of these symptoms or any of them to a marked degree.

INDICATORS OF CHILD ABUSE:

- Failure to thrive and meet developmental milestones
- Fearful or withdrawn tendencies
- Unexplained injuries to a child or conflicting reports from parents or staff
- Repeated injuries
- Unaddressed illnesses or injuries
- Significant changes to behaviour patterns.

Softer signs of abuse as defined by National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) include:

Emotional states

- Fearful
- Withdrawn
- Low self-esteem

Behaviour

- Aggressive

- Oppositional habitual body rocking

Interpersonal behaviours

- Indiscriminate contact of affection seeking
- Over- friendliness to strangers including health care professionals
- Excessive clinginess, persistently resorting to gaining attention
- Demonstrating excessively 'good' behaviour to prevent or carer disapproval
- Failing to seek or accept appropriate comfort or affection from an appropriate person when significantly distressed
- Coercive controlling behaviour towards parents or carers
- Lack of ability to understand and recognise emotions
- Very young children showing excessive comforting behaviours when witnessing parental or carer distress

TYPES OF ABUSE:

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by harming them or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused within a family, institution or community setting by those known to them or a stranger. This could be an adult or adults, another child or children.

What to do if you're worried a child is being abused (advice for practitioners) 2015.

PEER ON PEER ABUSE:

We are aware that peer on peer abuse does take place, so we include children in our policies when we talk about potential abusers. This may take the form of bullying, physically hurting another child, emotional abuse, or sexual abuse. We will report this in the same way as we do for adults abusing children and will take advice from the appropriate bodies on this area to support for both victim and the perpetrator, as they could also be a victim of abuse. We know that children who develop harmful sexual behaviour have often experienced abuse and neglect themselves.

PHYSICAL ABUSE:

A form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates symptoms or deliberately induces, illness in a child. These are not usual childhood injuries and should always be logged and discussed with the DSL or the Deputy DSL, according to who is on duty at the time.

All children can suffer injuries during their early years as they explore and develop. If an explanation of how a child received their injury itself or if a child's injuries are a regular occurrence or there is a pattern to their injuries, then we will report our concerns.

Action needs to be taken if staff have reason to believe that there has been a physical injury to a child, including deliberate poisoning, where there is definite knowledge or

reasonable suspicion that the injury was inflicted or knowingly not prevented. These symptoms may include bruising or injuries in an area that is not usual for a child, e.g. fleshy parts of the arms and legs, back, wrists, ankles and face.

Many children will have cuts and grazes from normal childhood injuries. These should also be logged and discussed with the nursery management.

FABRICATED ILLNESS

Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of or deliberately induces, illness in a child. The parent or carer may seek out unnecessary medical treatment or investigation they may exaggerate a real illness and symptoms or deliberately induce an illness though posing with medication or other substances or they may interfere with medical treatments. Fabricated illness is a form of physical abuse, and any concerns will be reported, in line with our safeguarding procedures.

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION / “CUTTING”:

FGM can also be know as Female Genital Cutting. FGM is a procedure where the female genital organs are injured or changed and there is no medical reason for this. It is frequently a very traumatic and violent act of the victim and can cause harm in may ways. The practise can cause serve pain and there may be immediate and/or long-term health consequences, including mental health problems, difficulties in childbirth, causing danger to the child and mother and/or death (definition taken from the Multi-agency statutory guidance on Female Genital Mutilation)

The procedure may be carried out shortly after birth and during childhood as well as adolescence, just before marriage during a woman’s first pregnancy and varies widely according to the community.

FGM is a child abuse and is illegal in the UK. It can be extremely dangerous and can cause:

- Serve pain
- Shock
- Bleeding
- Infection such as tetanus, HIV and hepatitis B and C
- Organ damage
- Blood loss and infections
- Death in some cases

Any concerns about a child or family will be reported to children’s social care team in the same way as other types of physical abuse. We have a mandatory duty to report to police any case where an act of FGM (Female genital mutilation) appears to have been carried out on a girl under the age of 18.

All staff at Little Oaks Children’s Nursery will undertake mandatory e-learning with Noddle now on Female Genital Mutilation within the first 12 weeks of employment. This learning is refreshed every three years.

BREAST IRONING:

Breast ironing also known as "breast flattening" is the process where young girls' breasts are ironed, massaged and/or pounded down through the use of hard or heated objects in order for the breasts to disappear or delay the development of the breasts entirely.

It is believed that by carrying out this act, young girls will be protected from harassment, rape, abduction and early forced marriage. Although this is unlikely to happen to children in the nursery due to their age, we will ensure any signs of this in young adults or older children are followed up using the usual safeguarding referral process.

Breast ironing/flattening is a form of physical abuse and can cause serious health issues such as:

- Abscesses
- Cysts
- Itching
- Tissue damage
- Infection
- Discharge of milk
- Dissymmetry of the breasts
- Severe fever

Any concerns about a child or family, will be reported to the children's social care team in the same way as other types of physical abuse.

SEXUAL ABUSE:

Sexual abuse involves forcing, or enticing, a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing, and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of sexual images watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways or grooming a child in preparation for abuse. Sexual abuse can take place online and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Adult's males do not solely perpetrate sexual abuse woman can also commit acts of sexual abuse as can other children.

Action needs to be taken if the staff member has witnessed an occasion(s) where a child indicated sexual activity through words, play, drawing, had an excessive preoccupation with sexual matters or had an inappropriate knowledge of adult sexual behaviour or language. This may include acting out sexual activity on dolls/toys or in the role play area with their peers, drawing pictures that are inappropriate for a child, talking about sexual activities or using sexual language or words. The child may become worried when their clothes are removed, e.g. for nappy changes.

If a child is being sexually abused staff may observe both emotional and physical symptoms.

Emotional signs

- Being overly affectionate or knowledge in a sexual way inappropriate to the child's age
- Personality changes such as becoming insecure or clingy
- Regressing to younger behaviour patterns such as a thumb sucking or bringing out discarded cuddly toys
- Sudden loss of appetite or compulsive eating
- Being isolated or withdrawn
- Inability to concentrate
- Lack of trust or fear of someone they know well, such as not wanting to be alone with a carer
- Becoming worried about clothing being removed
- Suddenly drawing sexually explicit pictures or acting out actions inappropriate for their age
- Using sexually explicit language

Physical signs:

- Bruises
- Bleeding, discharge, pains, or soreness in their genital or anal area
- Sexually transmitted infections
- Pregnancy

Any concerns about a child or family will be reported to the children social care team.

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION: (CSE)

Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021) describes CSE as: where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. CSE does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur using of technology. CSE can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years, including 16 and 17 year olds who can legally consent to have sex. It can include both contact (penetrative and non-penetrative acts) and non-contact sexual activity and may occur without the child or young person's immediate knowledge (e.g. through others copying videos or images they have created and posted on social media).

Signs and indicators may include:

- Physical injuries such as bruising or bleeding
- Having money or gifts they are unable to explain
- Sudden changes in their appearance

- Becoming involved in drugs or alcohol, particularly if you suspect they are being supplied by older men or women
- Becoming emotionally volatile (mood swings are common in all young people, but more severe changes could indicate that something is wrong)
- Using sexual language that you wouldn't expect them to know
- Engaging less with their usual friends
- Appearing controlled by their phone
- Switching to a new screen when you come near the computer
- Nightmares or sleeping problems
- Running away, staying out overnight, missing school
- Changes in eating habits
- Talk of a new, older friend, boyfriend, or girlfriend
- Losing contact with family and friends or becoming secretive
- Contracting sexually transmitted diseases.

If we have concerns we will follow the same procedures as for other concerns and we will record and refer as appropriate.

All staff at Little Oaks Children's Nursery will undertake mandatory e-learning Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) within the first 12 weeks of employment. This learning is refreshed every three years.

CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION (CCE)

CCE is where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child into any criminal activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or (c) through violence or the threat of violence. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. CCE does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

CCE can include children being forced to work in cannabis factories, being coerced into moving drugs or money across the country forced to shoplift or pickpocket, or to threaten other young people. Some of the following can be indicators of CCE:

- Children who appear with unexplained gifts or new possessions;
- Children who associate with other young people involved in exploitation;
- Children who suffer from changes in emotional well-being;
- Children who misuse drugs and alcohol;
- Children who go missing for periods of time or regularly come home late; and
- Children who regularly miss school or education or do not take part in education.

If staff have any concerns regarding CSE or CCE, they will be reported following our safeguarding reporting procedures reporting to the DSL (Nursery Management team)

EMOTIONAL ABUSE:

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) defines emotional abuse as ‘the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child’s emotional development’. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person.

It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or ‘making fun’ of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child’s developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

Signs and indicators may include:

- Physical, mental and emotional development lags
- Sudden speech disorders
- Overreaction to mistakes
- Extreme fear of any new situation
- Neurotic behavior (rocking, hair twisting, self-mutilation)
- Extremes of passivity or aggression
- Appear unconfident or lack self-assurance.

Action will be taken if the staff member has reason to believe that there is a severe, adverse effect on the behaviour and emotional development of a child, caused by persistent or severe ill treatment or rejection. Children may also experience emotional abuse through witnessing domestic abuse and alcohol and drug misuse by adults caring for them. In England, The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 recognises in law, for the first time, that children are victims if they see, hear or otherwise experience the effects of domestic abuse.

NEGLECT:

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) defines Neglect as ‘the persistent failure to meet a child’s basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child’s health or development’. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- a. Provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment)
- b. Protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger
- c. Ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate caregivers)
- d. Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Signs may include a child persistently arriving at nursery unwashed or unkempt, wearing clothes that are too small (especially shoes that may restrict the child's growth or hurt them), arriving at nursery in the same nappy they went home in or a child having an illness or identified special educational need or disability that is not being addressed by the parent. A child may also be persistently hungry if a parent is withholding food or not providing enough for a child's needs.

Neglect may also be shown through emotional signs, e.g. a child may not be receiving the attention they need at home and may crave love and support at nursery. In addition, neglect may occur through pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse.

Action will be taken if the staff member has reason to believe that there has been any type of neglect of a child.

COUNTRY LINES

The National Crime Agency (NCA) describe county lines as a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs from big cities into smaller towns, using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of 'deal line.' Customers will live in a different area to where the dealers and networks are based, so drug runners are needed to transport the drugs and collect payment.

Offenders will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons to ensure compliance of victims. Children can be targeted and recruited into county lines in a number of locations including schools, further and higher educational institutions, pupil referral units, special educational needs schools, children's homes and care homes.

Signs and indicators to be aware of include:

- Changes in the way young people you might know dress
- Unexplained, sometimes unaffordable new things (e.g. clothes, jewellery, cars etc.)
- Missing from home or schools and/or significant decline in performance
- New friends or relationships with those who don't share any mutual friendships with the victim or anyone else
- May be carrying a weapon
- Receiving more texts or calls than usual
- Sudden influx of cash, clothes or mobile phones

- Unexplained injuries
- Significant changes in emotional well-being
- Young people seen in different cars/taxis driven by unknown adults
- Young people seeming unfamiliar with your community or where they are
- Truancy, exclusion, disengagement from school
- An increase in anti-social behaviour in the community
- Unexplained injuries
- Gang association or isolation from peers or social networks.

CUCKOOING

Cuckooing is a form of county lines crime in which drug dealers take over the home of a vulnerable person in order to criminally exploit them as a base for drug dealing, often in multi-occupancy or social housing properties. Signs that this is happening in a family property may be an increase in people entering or leaving the property, an increase in cars or bikes outside the home; windows covered or curtains closed for long periods, family not being seen for extended periods; signs of drug use or an increase in anti-social behaviour at the home. If we recognise any of these signs, we will report our concerns as per our reporting process.

If staff have any concerns regarding county lines/cuckooing follow our safeguarding reporting procedures will be reported to DSL (Nursery Management)

CONTEXTUAL SAFEGUARDING

As young people grow and develop they may be vulnerable to abuse or exploitation from outside their family. These extra-familial threats might arise at school and other educational establishments, from within peer groups, or more widely from within the wider community and/or online.

As part of our safeguarding procedures we will work in partnership with parents/carers and other agencies to work together to safeguard children and provide the support around contextual safeguarding concerns.

DOMESTIC ABUSE / HONOUR BASED VIOLENCE / FORCED MARRIAGES:

We look at these areas as a child protection concern. Please refer to the separate policy for further details on this.

EXTREMISM – THE PREVENT DUTY

Under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 we have a duty to safeguard at risk or vulnerable children under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and refer any concerns of extremism to the police (In Prevent priority areas the local authority will have a Prevent lead who can also provide support).

Children can be exposed to different views and receive information from various sources. Some of these views may be considered radical or extreme. Radicalisation is the way a

person comes to support or be involved in extremism and terrorism. It's a gradual process so young people who are affected may not realise what's happening.

Radicalisation is a form of harm. The process may involve:

- Being groomed online or in person
- Exploitation, including sexual exploitation
- Psychological manipulation
- Exposure to violent material and other inappropriate information
- The risk of physical harm or death through extremist acts

We have a Prevent Duty and Radicalisation policy in place. Please refer to this for specific details.

ONLINE SAFETY

We take the safety of our children very seriously and this includes their online safety. Please refer to the Online Safety policy for further details.

MODERN SALVERY AND CHILD TRAFFICKING

Please refer to our Modern Slavery and Child Trafficking policy for detail on how we keep children safe in this area.

ADULT SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

As part of our safeguarding procedures we will also ensure that staff and students are safeguarded from sexual exploitation.

UP SKIRTING / DOWN BLOUSING

Up skirting and down blousing are criminal offences. They involve taking pictures of someone's genitals, buttocks or other intimate images under their clothing without them knowing, either for sexual gratification or in order to humiliate, or distress, the individual.

CHILD ABUSE LINKED TO FAITH OR BELIEF (CALFB)

Child abuse linked to faith or belief (CALFB) can happen in families when there is a concept of belief in:

- Witchcraft and spirit possession, demons or the devil acting through children or leading them astray (traditionally seen in some Christian beliefs)
- The evil eye or djinns (traditionally known in some Islamic faith contexts) and dakini (in the Hindu context)
- Ritual or multi murders where the killing of children is believed to bring supernatural benefits, or the use of their body parts is believed to produce potent magical remedies
- Use of belief in magic or witchcraft to create fear in children to make them more compliant when they are being trafficked for domestic slavery or sexual exploitation.

This is not an exhaustive list and there will be other examples where children have been harmed when adults think that their actions have brought bad fortune.

REPORTING SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS:

All staff have a responsibility to report safeguarding/child protection concerns and suspicions of abuse. These concerns will be discussed with the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) as soon as possible.

- Staff will report their concerns **within 60 minutes** to the DSL- Jade Holyoake (in the absence of the DSL they will be reported to the Deputy DSL – Alicia O’Connell)
- Any signs of marks/injuries to a child or information a child has given will be recorded and stored securely.
- Pre-existing injuries will be reported for management oversight **within 60 minutes** of form completion by parent/carer. Where appropriate, the child’s version of events will always be sought and added to the form.
- If appropriate, any concerns/ or incidents will be discussed with the parent/carer, such discussions will be recorded and the parent will have access to these records on request
- If there are queries/concerns regarding the injury/information given then the following procedures will take place:

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will:

- Contact the Children’s Single Point of Access (SPA) to report concerns and seek advice (if it is believed a child is in immediate danger we will contact the police)
- Record the information and action taken relating to the concern raised
- Speak to the parents (unless advised not to do so by SPA)
- The designated safeguarding lead will follow up with the SPA if they have not contacted the setting within the timeframe set out in Working Together to Safeguarding Children (2018). We will never assume that action has been taken.
- If our referral does not meet local authority threshold, but our concerns about the child remain, the DSL will gather more evidence and resubmit the referral with reference to the LSCB Professional Escalation Policy which can be found in the Office.

Keeping children safe is our highest priority and if, for whatever reason, staff do not feel able to report concerns to the DSL or deputy DSL they should call the Local Authority children’s social care , the police or the NSPCC and report their concerns anonymously.

RESPONDING TO A SPONTANEOUS DISCLOSURE FROM A CHILD

If a child starts to talk openly to a member of staff about abuse they may be experiencing, then staff will:

- Give full attention to the child or young person
- Keep body language open and encouraging
- Be compassionate, be understanding and reassure them their feelings are important using phrases such as ‘you’ve shown such courage today’

- Take time and slow down: show respect, pause and will not interrupt the child – let them go at their own pace
- Recognise and respond to their body language
- Show understanding and reflect back
- Make it clear you are interested in what the child is telling you
- Reflect back what they have said to check your understanding – and use their language to show it's their experience
- Reassure the child that they have done the right thing in telling you. Make sure they know that abuse is never their fault
- Never talk to the alleged perpetrator about the child's disclosure. This could make things a lot worse for the child.

(Information taken from NSPCC)

Any disclosure will be reported to the nursery Management Team or DSL and will be referred to the local authority children's social care team immediately, following our reporting procedures.

RECORDING SUSPICIONS OF ABUSE AND DISCLOSURES

Staff should make an objective record of any observation or disclosure, supported by the nursery manager or designated safeguarding lead (DSL). This record should include:

- Child's name
- Child's address
- Age of the child and date of birth
- Date and time of the observation or the disclosure, location
- Exact words spoken by the child (word for word) and non-verbal communication
- Exact position and type of any injuries or marks seen
- Exact observation of any incident including any concern was reported, with date and time; and the names of any other person present at the time
- Any discussion held with the parent(s) (where deemed appropriate).

These records should be signed by the person reporting this as well as the Nursery Management team, dated and kept in a separate confidential file.

If a child starts to talk to an adult about potential abuse it is important not to promise the child complete confidentiality. This promise cannot be kept. It is vital that the child is allowed to talk openly and disclosure is not forced or words put into the child's mouth. As soon as possible after the disclosure details must be logged accurately. It is not the nursery's role to investigate, it is the role of statutory services to complete this.

Staff involved in a safeguarding case may be asked to supply details of any information/concerns they have with regard to a child. The nursery expects all members of staff to co-operate with the local authority children's social care, police, and Ofsted in any way necessary to ensure the safety of the children.

Staff must not make any comments either publicly or in private about the supposed or actual behaviour of a parent, child or member of staff.

INFORMING PARENTS

Parents are normally the first point of contact. If a suspicion of abuse is recorded, parents are informed at the same time as the report is made, except where the guidance of the local authority children's social care team/police does not allow this to happen. This will usually be the case where the parent or family member is the likely abuser or where a child may be endangered by this disclosure. In these cases the investigating officers will inform parents.

CONFIDENTIALITY:

All suspicions, enquiries and external investigations are kept confidential and shared only with those who need to know. Any information is shared in line with guidance from the local authority. All staff, students and volunteers are bound by confidentiality and any information will not be discussed out of work, or this will become a disciplinary matter.

The Nursery has due regard to the data protection principles as in the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)¹. These do not prohibit the collection and sharing of personal information, even without consent if this would put the child at further risk. We will follow the principles around data collection and information sharing, and ensure any information is recorded and shared in an appropriate way.

RECORD KEEPING

Confidential records kept on a child are shared with the child's parents or those who have parental responsibility for the child, only if appropriate and in line with guidance of the local authority with the proviso that the care and safety of the child is paramount. We will do all in our power to support and work with the child's family.

The nursery keeps appropriate records to support the early identification of children and families that would benefit from support. Factual records are maintained in a chronological order with parental discussions. Records are reviewed regularly by the DSL to look holistically at identifying children's needs.

SUPPORT TO FAMILIES:

The nursery takes every step in its power to build up trusting and supportive relations among families, staff, students and volunteers within the nursery.

The nursery continues to welcome the child and the family whilst enquiries are being made in relation to abuse in the home situation. Parents and families will be treated with respect in a non-judgmental manner whilst any external investigations are carried out in the best interest of the child.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ADULTS WORKING OR VOLUNTEERING WITH CHILDREN:

If an allegation is made against a member of staff, student or volunteer or any other person who lives or works on the nursery premises regardless of whether the allegation relates to the nursery premises or elsewhere, we will follow the procedure below;

The allegation should be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead on duty **within 60 minutes**. If this person is the subject of the allegation then this should be reported to the Nominated Person instead. **Our Nominated Person is: James Horn.**

If as an individual you feel this will not be taken seriously or are worried about the allegation getting back to the person in question then it is your duty to inform the LADO yourself directly

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and Ofsted will then be informed immediately in order for this to be investigated by the appropriate bodies promptly:

- The LADO will be informed immediately for advice and guidance
- A full investigation will be carried out by the appropriate professionals (LADO, Ofsted) to determine how this will be handled
- The nursery will follow all instructions from the LADO and Ofsted and ask all staff members to do the same and co-operate where required
- Support will be provided to all those involved in an allegation throughout the external investigation in line with LADO support and advice
- The nursery reserves the right to suspend any member of staff during an investigation
- All enquiries/external investigations/interviews will be documented and kept in a locked file for access by the relevant authorities
- Unfounded allegations will result in all rights being reinstated
- Founded allegations will be passed on to the relevant organisations including the local authority children's social care team and where an offence is believed to have been committed, the police, and will result in the termination of employment. Ofsted will be notified immediately of this decision. The nursery will also notify the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) to ensure their records are updated
- All records will be kept until the person reaches normal retirement age or for 21 years and 3 months years if that is longer. This will ensure accurate information is available for references and future DBS checks and avoids any unnecessary reinvestigation
- The nursery retains the right to dismiss any member of staff in connection with founded allegations following an inquiry
- Counselling will be available for any member of the nursery who is affected by an allegation, their colleagues in the nursery and the parents.

We will follow our own local safeguarding partner's website information about how to report an allegation and we would also inform Ofsted immediately in order for this to be investigated by the appropriate bodies promptly. This includes:

- If as an individual you feel this will not be taken seriously or are worried about the allegation getting back to the person in question then it is your duty to inform the local authority children's social care team yourself directly
- The local authority children's social care team will be informed immediately for advice and guidance
- A full investigation will be carried out by the appropriate professionals (local authority children's social care team, Ofsted) to determine how this will be handled
- The nursery will follow all instructions from the local authority children's social care team and Ofsted and ask all staff members to do the same and co-operate where required
- Support will be provided to all those involved in an allegation throughout the external investigation in line with local authority children's social care team support and advice
- The nursery reserves the right to suspend any member of staff during an investigation, Legal advice will be sought to ensure compliance with the law.
- All enquiries/external investigations/interviews will be documented and kept in a locked file for access by the relevant authorities
- Founded allegations will be passed on to the relevant organisations including the local authority children's social care team and where an offence is believed to have been committed, the police will also be informed.
- Founded allegations will be dealt with as gross misconduct in accordance with our disciplinary procedures and may result in the termination of employment, Ofsted will be notified immediately of this decision along with notifying the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) to ensure their records are updated.
- All safeguarding records will be kept until the person reaches normal retirement age or for 21 years and 3 months if that is longer. This will ensure accurate information is available for references and future DBS checks and avoids any unnecessary reinvestigation
- The nursery retains the right to dismiss any member of staff in connection with founded allegations following an inquiry
- Unfounded allegations will result in all rights being reinstated
- A return to work plan will be put in place for any member of staff returning to work after an allegation has been deemed unfounded. Individual support will be offered to meet the needs of the individual staff member and the nature of the incident; this may include more frequent supervisions, coaching and mentoring and external support.

MONITORING CHILDRENS ATTENDANCE:

As part of our requirements under the statutory framework and guidance documents we are required to monitor children's attendance patterns to ensure they are consistent and no cause for concern.

We ask parents to inform the nursery prior to their children taking holidays or days off, and all incidents of sickness absence should be reported to the nursery the same day so the nursery management are able to account for a child's absence.

This should not stop parents taking precious time with their children, by keeping us informed parents can help us to meet our statutory requirements and let us know that children are safe.

Attendance for every child is logged weekly. The DSL/DDSL review attendance charts monthly to ensure all children are attending regularly and there are no causes for concern. If a concern about attendance is identified, or raised by key staff, it is the responsibility of the DSL to establish open lines of communication with the family to improve that child's attendance.

If a child has not arrived at nursery by 10am the parents will be called to ensure the child is safe and healthy. If the parents are not contactable then the emergency contacts numbers listed will be used to ensure all parties are safe. Staff will work their way down the emergency contact list until contact is established and we are made aware that all is well with the child and family. It is a parent's responsibility to keep their emergency contact details updated. If contact cannot be established then we would assess if a home visit is required to establish all parties are safe. If contact is still not established, we would assess if it would be appropriate to contact relevant authorities in order to them to investigate further.

Where a child is part of a child protection plan, or during a referral process, any absences will immediately be reported to the local authority children's social care team to ensure the child remains safe and well.

CHILD LOOKED AFTER (CLA) STATUS:

As part of our safeguarding practice we will ensure our staff are aware of how to keep looked after children safe. In order to do this we ask that we are informed of:

- The legal status of the child (e.g. whether the child is being looked after under voluntary arrangements with consent of parents or on an interim or full care order)
- Contact arrangements for the biological parents (or those with parental responsibility)
- The child's care arrangements and the levels of authority delegated to the carer by the authority looking after him/her
- The details of the child's social worker and any other support agencies involved
- Any child protection plan or care plan in place for the child in question.

Please refer to the Looked After Children policy for further details

STAFFING AND VOLUNTEERING:

Our policy is to provide a secure and safe environment for all children. We only allow an adult who is employed by the nursery to care for children and who has an enhanced clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) to be left alone with children.

We will obtain enhanced criminal records checks (DBS) for all volunteers and do not allow any volunteers to be unsupervised with children.

All staff will undertake “Working Together to Safeguard Children” training within their first 12 weeks of employment. This will include the procedures for spotting signs and behaviours of abuse and abusers/potential abusers, recording and reporting concerns and creating a safe and secure environment for the children in the nursery. During induction staff will be given contact details for the LADO (local authority designated officer), the SPA, and Ofsted to enable them to report any safeguarding concerns, independently, if they feel it necessary to do so.

At Little Oaks we give all staff members, volunteers and students regular opportunities during supervisions and having regular opportunities to declare changes that may affect their suitability to care for the children. This includes information about their health, medication or about changes in their home life which may affect their suitability to work with children.

We have named persons within the nursery who take lead responsibility for safeguarding and co-ordinate child protection and welfare issues, known as the Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL), there is always at least one designated person on duty during all opening hours of the setting.

These designated persons will receive comprehensive training at least every two years and update their knowledge on an ongoing basis, but at least once a year.

The nursery DSL’s liaise with the local authority children’s social care team, undertakes specific training, including a child protection training course, and receives regular updates to developments within this field. They in turn support the ongoing development and knowledge update of all staff on the team.

Although, under the EYFS, we are only required to have one designated lead for safeguarding, for best practice and to ensure cover at all times, we have two designated leads in place. This enables safeguarding to stay high on our priorities at all times. There will always be at least one designated lead on duty at all times our provision is open. This will ensure that prompt action can be taken if concerns are raised.

- We provide adequate and appropriate staffing resources to meet the needs of all children
- Applicants for posts within the nursery are clearly informed that the positions are exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. Candidates are informed of the need to carry out checks before posts can be confirmed. Where applications are rejected because of information that has been disclosed, applicants have the right to know and to challenge incorrect information
- We give staff members, volunteers and students regular opportunities to declare changes that may affect their suitability to care for the children. This includes information about their health, medication or about changes in their home life

- This information is also stated within every member of staff's contract
- We request staff members to sign up to the DBS Update Service. Through this service, we undertake standard termly checks on the status of each employee's certificates. We will also seek to check the status of a DBS Certificate if we have performance concerns, after a promotion or demotion, or at any other time at the discretion of the DSL/DDSL.
- Staff members who did not subscribe to the DBS Update Service will require a new DBS Certificate every 3 years.
- We abide by the requirements of the EYFS and any Ofsted guidance in respect to obtaining references and suitability checks for staff, students and volunteers, to ensure that all staff, students and volunteers working in the setting are suitable to do so
- Ensure the setting is meeting the requirements of the EYFS statutory requirements
- We ensure we receive at least two written references BEFORE a new member of staff commences employment with us. References are followed up with a telephone call for further verification purposes
- All students will have enhanced DBS checks conducted on them before their placement starts
- Volunteers, including students, do not work unsupervised
- We abide by the requirements of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 and the Childcare Act 2006 in respect of any person who is disqualified from providing childcare, is dismissed from our employment, or resigns in circumstances that would otherwise have led to dismissal for reasons of child protection concern
- We have procedures for recording the details of visitors to the nursery and take security steps to ensure that we have control over who comes into the nursery so that no unauthorised person has unsupervised access to the children
- All visitors/contractors will be supervised whilst on the premises, especially when in the areas the children use
- As a staff team we will be fully aware of how to safeguard the whole nursery environment and be aware of potential dangers on the nursery boundaries such as drones or strangers lingering. We will ensure the children remain safe at all times
- The Staff Behaviour Policy sits alongside this policy to enable us to monitor changes in behaviours that may cause concern. All staff acknowledge this policy to ensure any changes are reported to management so we are able to support the individual staff member and ensure the safety and care of the children is not compromised
- All staff have access to and comply with the whistleblowing policy which will enable them to share any concerns that may arise about their colleagues in an appropriate manner
- Signs of inappropriate staff behaviour may include inappropriate sexual comments; excessive one-to-one attention beyond the requirements of their usual role and responsibilities; or inappropriate sharing of images. This is not an exhaustive list, any changes in behaviour must be reported and acted upon immediately

- All staff will receive regular supervision meetings where opportunities will be made available to discuss any issues relating to individual children, child protection training and any needs for further support
- We use peer on peer and manager observations in the setting to ensure that the care we provide for children is at the highest level and any areas for staff development are quickly highlighted. Peer observations allow us to share constructive feedback, develop practice and build trust so that staff are able to share any concerns they may have. Any concerns are raised with the designated lead and dealt with in an appropriate and timely manner
- The deployment of staff within the nursery allows for constant supervision and support. Where children need to spend time away from the rest of the group, the door will be left ajar or other safeguards will be put into action to ensure the safety of the child and the adult.

EARLY HELP SERVICES

When a child and/or family would benefit from support but do not meet the threshold for Local Authority Social Care Team, a discussion will take place with the family around early help services.

Early help provides support as soon as a concern/area of need emerges, helping to improve outcomes and prevent escalation onto local authority services. Sometimes concerns about a child may not be of a safeguarding nature and relate more to their individual family circumstances. The nursery will work in partnership with parents/carers to identify any early help services that would benefit your child or your individual circumstances, with your consent, this may include family support, foodbank support, counselling, or parenting services.

We also operate a Phones and Other Electronic Devices and Social Media policy, which states how we will keep children safe from these devices whilst at nursery. This also links to our Online Safety policy.

Our nursery has a clear commitment to protecting children and promoting welfare. Should anyone believe that this policy is not being upheld, it is their duty to report the matter to the attention of the DSL at the earliest opportunity.

USEFULL CONTACTS

Setting	
DSL	Jade
Deputy DSL	Alicia, Klaudia, Ann & Yvonne
Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)	This is changed daily as in Surrey we have a duty Lado
Local Authority Safeguarding Children Partnership	Please see Designated Safeguarding Lead Poster for further details

Ofsted (England)	0300 123 1231
Police and related contacts	
Emergency police	999
Non-emergency police	101
Child exploitation and online protection (CEOP)	Online contact only
DfE counter-extremism helpline	020 7340 7264
Other useful contacts	
NSPCC Child Protection Helpline	0808 800 5000
Childline	0800 1111
Kidscape	020 7823 5430
National Domestic Abuse helpline	0808 2000 247
Modern slavery helpline	08000 121 700
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
Internet Watch Foundation (IWF)	01223 20 30 30
Information Commissioners Office (ICO)	0303 123 1113

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
3rd March 2015	Amanda Horn – Company Director	October 2024
Latest review on		
23 rd September 2021	Jade Holyoake – Nursery Manager	
18 th October 2022	Jade Holyoake – Nursery Manager	
16 th December 2022	Jade Holyoake – Nursery Manager	
9 th October 2023	Jade Holyoake – Nursery Manager	
15 th February 2024	Jade Holyoake – Nursery Manager	