

1. 7 Safeguarding Children

It is the responsibility of everyone within Giant Leap Childcare and Learning Centre to ensure that every child within our care is safeguarded. The safety and welfare of every child in our care is a major priority and responsibility, through building a safer organisational culture.

We are dedicated to following Lancashire Early Years & Children's Centres Child Protection Policies and Procedures (Lancashire Children's Safeguarding Partnership), and ensure all staff within the Giant Leap team have up to date knowledge of safeguarding and child protection information and any changes in practice or policy. We ensure all staff receive/hold level 1 safeguarding children certificate trained by the local council and receive in house training and information through staff inductions and meetings. All Designated Safeguarding Leads and Managers hold the level 2 Safeguarding Nominated Officers certificate trained by the local council/providers. We place great importance on ensuring everyone working within our setting recognises and understands their responsibilities towards the children in our care and are aware of any signs and symptoms or inappropriate behaviour. Information for staff is available within the settings policies and procedures and on the staff notice board located within the staff room.

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. Safeguarding is a much wider subject than the elements covered within this single policy, therefore this document is used in conjunction with other nursery policies and procedures.

At Giant Leap Childcare we will 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.

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

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's 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.

(Definition taken from the HM Government document 'Working Together to Safeguard Children').

This policy works alongside these other specific policies to cover all aspects of child protection:

Acceptable internet use policy	Nappy changing policy
Attendance policy	Online safety policy
CCTV policy	Promoting positive behaviour policy
Data protection and confidentiality policy	Recruitment, selection and suitability of staff policy
Emergency lockdown policy	Respectful intimate care policy
Inclusion and equality policy	Social networking policy
Late collection and non-collection of children policy	Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) policy
Lone working policy	Staff code of conduct
Looked after children policy	Supervision of children policy
Low-level concern policy	Supervision of visitors policy
Missing child from nursery policy	Volunteers policy
Missing child from outings policy	Whistleblowing policy
Mobile phone and electronic device use policy	Young workers policy

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
- Support staff to notice the softer signs of abuse and know what action 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.

Our practitioners have 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 Senior Nursery Manager at the earliest opportunity.

The Legal Framework and Definitions for this Policy is based on:

- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2006)
- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Childcare Act 2006
- Children and Social Work Act 2017
- The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) 2017
- Working together to safeguard children 2018
- Keeping children safe in education 2019
- Data Protection Act 2018 -GDPR
- What to do if you're worried a child is being abused 2015
- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.
- Inspecting Safeguarding in Early Years & Skills Settings (2019)

Practitioners have a duty to protect and promote the welfare of children. Due to the many hours of care we are providing, staff will often be the first people to sense that there may be a problem. They may well be the first people in whom children confide about abuse or to spot changes in a child's behaviour which may indicate abuse. The nursery has a duty to be aware that abuse does occur in our society. If there is a concern, never do nothing (Laming, 2009), always do something, including sharing information with any relevant agencies. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

This statement lays out the procedures that will be followed if we have any reason to believe that a child in our care is subject to welfare issues including physical, sexual, emotional abuse or neglect.

Our prime responsibility is the welfare and well-being of all children 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 Children's Social Care, health professionals or the police. All staff will work as part of a multi-agency team, where needed, in the best interests of the child.

The nursery aims to:

- Keep the child at the centre of all we do
- Ensure staff are trained to understand the child protection and safeguarding 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, i.e. bullying, discriminatory behaviour
- Be aware of the increased vulnerability of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and other vulnerable or isolated families and children
- Ensure that staff understand how to recognise early indicators of potential radicalisation and terrorism threats and acts on them appropriately in line with national and local procedures
- Ensure that all staff feel confident and supported to share information and seek the help that the child may need
- Ensure that all staff are familiar and updated regularly with child protection training and procedures and kept informed of changes to local and 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 the Lancashire Safeguarding Children's Partnership (LSP).
- Make any referrals relating to extremism to the police (or Government helpline) in a timely way, sharing relevant information as appropriate
- 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 using appropriate filters, checks and safeguards, monitoring access at all times
- Ensure that children are never placed at risk while in the charge 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 in the nursery premises including reporting such allegations to Ofsted and other relevant authorities
- Ensure parents are fully aware of 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 Lancashire Safeguarding Children's Board.

Children will be supported by offering reassurance, comfort and sensitive interactions. Activities will be devised 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.

Safeguarding /Child Protection Contact Information

Concerns in regard to the safety and welfare of children and wish to make a referral (section 47) please contact:

Children's Integrated Services - Emergency Duty team (EDT)

0300 123 6720

Out of hours – Emergency Duty Team –

0300 123 6722

Concerns in regard to staff members/volunteers and board members in their duty of care and safety towards children Please contact:

The local authority Designated Officer

Referral online - <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/practitioners/supporting-children-and-families/safeguarding-children/local-authority-designated-officer/>

01772 536694

NSPCC

0808 800 5000

Emergency police

999

Non-emergency police

101

Government helpline for extremism concerns

020 7340 7264

Ofsted

0300 123 1231

Sharing low-level concerns

On occasion, inappropriate, problematic or concerning behaviour by staff or other adults is observed but does not meet the threshold for significant harm. This may be classed as a 'low-level' concern, although this does not mean that it is insignificant.

See Low-level concerns policy for full details.

We define a low-level concern as:

- Any concern, no matter how small, that an adult working with children may have acted in a way that is inconsistent with our Staff code of conduct policy, including inappropriate behaviour outside of work
- A concern that may be a sense of unease or a 'nagging doubt' and does not meet the harm threshold or is serious enough to refer to the LADO.

We encourage a culture of openness, trust and transparency, with clear values and expected behaviour, monitored and reinforced by all staff. All concerns or allegations, however small, will be shared and responded to. All concerns will be shared with the DSL, or other nominated person, as in our reporting procedures. We encourage concerns to be shared as soon as reasonably practicable and preferably within 24 hours of becoming aware of it- DSL's will check the Teir threshold. However, it is never too late to share a low-level concern.

It is not expected that staff will be able to determine whether the behaviour in question is a concern, complaint or allegation before sharing the information. If the DSL is in any doubt as to whether the information meets the harm threshold, they will consult the LADO.

Occasionally a member of staff may find themselves in a situation which could be misinterpreted or appear compromising to others. If this occurs, staff are encouraged to self-report to the DSL. Equally, a member of staff may have behaved in a manner which, on reflection, falls below the standards set in our Staff behaviour policy. If this occurs, staff are encouraged to self-report to the DSL. We encourage staff to be confident to self-refer and believe it reflects awareness of our standards of conduct and behaviour.

When the DSL receives the information, they will need to determine whether the behaviour:

- Meets, or may meet, the harm threshold (and so contact the LADO)
- Meets the harm threshold when combined with previous low-level concerns (and so contact the LADO)
- Constitutes a 'low-level' concern
- Is appropriate and consistent with the law and our Staff behaviour policy.

The DSL will make appropriate records of all information shared, including:

- With the reporting person
- The subject matter of the concern
- Any relevant witnesses (where possible)
- Any external discussions such as with the LSP or LADO
- Their decision about the nature of the concern
- Their rationale for that decision
- Any action taken.

This constitutes a record of low-level concern. We retain all records of low-level concerns in a separate low-level concerns file, with separate concerns regarding a single individual kept as a chronology. These records are kept confidential and held securely, accessed only by those who have appropriate authority. Records will be retained at least until the individual leaves their employment.

If the low-level concern raises issues of misconduct, then appropriate actions following our Disciplinary procedures will be taken. Records will be kept in personnel files as well as in the low-level concerns file.

Types of Abuse and Procedures Followed

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.

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
- Aggressive behaviour
- Unexplained injuries to a child or conflicting reports from parents or staff
- Repeated injuries
- Unaddressed illnesses or injuries.

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

- Low self-esteem
- Wetting and soiling
- Recurrent nightmares
- Aggressive behaviour
- Withdrawing communication
- Habitual body rocking
- Indiscriminate contact or affection seeking
- Over-friendliness towards strangers
- Excessive clinginess
- Persistently seeking attention.

Peer on peer abuse (Sexual, Harmful Behaviour)

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. We will also ensure we limit the opportunity and time that children spend alone.

Physical Abuse

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 manager or room leader. Children and babies may be abused physically through shaking or throwing. Other injuries may include burns or scalds. These are not usual childhood injuries and should always be logged and discussed with the Senior Nursery Manager.

Female Genital Mutilation

This type of physical abuse is practised as a cultural ritual by certain ethnic groups and there is now more awareness of its prevalence in some communities in England including its effect on the child and any other siblings involved. For our children in our breakfast and afterschool or holiday club provision, this may be an area of abuse we may come across more. Symptoms may include bleeding, painful areas, and acute urinary retention, urinary infection, wound infection, septicaemia and incontinence, vaginal and pelvic infections with depression and post-traumatic stress disorder a physiological concerns. If you have any concerns about a child in this area, you should contact Local Authority Children's Social Care Team in the same way as other types of abuse. There is a mandatory duty to report to police any case where an act of female genital mutilation appears to have been carried out on a girl under the age of 18, we will ensure this is followed in our setting.

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.

Fabricated Illness

This is also a type of physical abuse. This is where a child is presented with an illness that is fabricated by the adult carer. The carer may seek out unnecessary medical treatment or investigation. The signs may include a carer exaggerating a real illness or symptoms, complete fabrication of symptoms or inducing physical illness, e.g. through poisoning, starvation, inappropriate diet. This may also be presented through false allegations of abuse or encouraging the child to appear disabled or ill to obtain unnecessary treatment or specialist support.

Procedure:

- All signs of marks/injuries to a child, when they come into nursery or occur during time at the nursery, will be recorded as soon as noticed by a staff member
- The incident will be discussed with the parent at the earliest opportunity, where felt appropriate
- Such discussions will be recorded and the parent will have access to such records
- If there appear to be any queries regarding the injury, the local authority children's social care team will be notified in line with procedures set out by the Local Authority Children's Social Care Team.

Sexual Abuse (Sexual, Harmful Behaviour)

Action needs be taken under this heading if the staff member has witnessed occasion(s) where a child indicated sexual activity through words, play, drawing, had an excessive pre-occupation 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.

The physical symptoms may include genital trauma, discharge, and bruises between the legs or signs of a sexually transmitted disease (STD). Emotional symptoms could include a distinct change in a child's behaviour. They may be withdrawn or overly extroverted and outgoing. They may withdraw away from a particular adult and become distressed if they reach out for them, but they may also be particularly clingy

to a potential abuser so all symptoms and signs should be looked at together and assessed as a whole.

If a child starts to talk openly to an adult about abuse they may be experiencing; the procedure stated later in this document under 'recording abuse suspicions' will be followed.

Procedure:

- The adult should reassure the child and listen without interrupting if the child wishes to talk
- The observed instances will be detailed in a confidential report
- The observed instances will be reported to the nursery manager
- The matter will be referred to the local authority children's social care team
- A sensitive and confidential discussion will be held with the parents/carers of any other children party to inappropriate play.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Working Together to Safeguard children 2015 (2017 updated version) defines CSE as 2...a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status or the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology."

We will be aware of the possibility of CSE and the signs and symptoms this may manifest as. If we have concerns, we will follow the same procedures as for other concerns and we will record and refer as appropriate.

Adult sexual exploitation

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

Emotional Abuse

Action should be taken under this heading 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.

This may include extremes of discipline where a child is shouted at or put down on a consistent basis, lack of emotional attachment by a parent, or it may include parents

or carers placing inappropriate age or developmental expectations upon them. Emotional abuse may also be imposed through the child witnessing domestic abuse and alcohol and drug misuse by adults caring for them.

The child is likely to show extremes of emotion with this type of abuse. This may include shying away from an adult who is abusing them, becoming withdrawn, aggressive or clingy in order to receive their love and attention. This type of abuse is harder to identify as the child is not likely to show any physical signs.

Procedure:

- The concern should be discussed with the Nursery Manager
- The concern will be discussed with the parent
- Such discussions will be recorded and the parent will have access to such records
- A Common Assessment Framework (CAF) form may need to be completed
- If there appear to be any queries regarding the circumstances, the matter will be referred to the Local Authority Children's Social Care Team.

Neglect

Action should be taken under this heading if the staff member has reason to believe that there has been persistent or severe neglect of a child (for example, by exposure to any kind of danger, including cold, starvation or failure to seek medical treatment when required on behalf of the child), which results in serious impairment of the child's health or development, including failure to thrive.

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 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. They may be clingy and emotional. In addition, neglect may occur through pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse.

Procedure:

- The concern will be discussed with the parent
- Such discussions will be recorded and the parent will have access to such records

- A CAF form may need to be completed
- If there appear to be any queries regarding the circumstances the local authority children's social care team will be notified.

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.

Reporting Procedures

All staff have a responsibility to report safeguarding 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 to the DSL (in the absence of the DSL they will be reported to a Deputy DSL)
- Any signs of marks/injuries to a child or information a child has given will be recorded and stored securely
- If appropriate, the incident will be discussed with the parent/carers, 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 will:

- Contact the local authority children's social care team to report concerns and seek advice (if it is believed a child is in immediate danger we will contact the police)
- Inform Ofsted
- Record the information and action taken relating to the concern raised
- Speak to the parents (unless advised not to do so by LA children's social care team)
- The designated safeguarding lead will follow up with the Local Authority children's social care team if they have not contacted the setting within the timeframe set out in Working Together to Safeguarding Children. We will never assume that action has been taken,

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 team or the NSPCC and report their concerns anonymously. These contact numbers are displayed on each safeguarding display and on staffs ID badges.

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 will be added to Cura and 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
- Exact words spoken by the child
- 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 checked by the person reporting this and the DSL, dated and information fully updated on Cura, with outcome where possible.

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 may be thought necessary that through discussion with all concerned the matter needs to be raised with the local authority children's social care team and Ofsted. Staff involved 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 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 does not allow this. 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 Children's Social Care Team.

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 interests of the child.

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 in line with guidance of the Local Authority Children's Social Care Team 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.

If any parent or carer have any concerns in regard to staff members/ adults caring for children within Giant Leap Childcare, they must inform the Manager or Deputy Manager in her absence, the information will be recorded on the relevant paperwork and will be passed onto the Designated Safeguarding Leader immediately.

If you wish you may report any concerns independently by contacting the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) 01772 536694 will be informed along with Ofsted Early Years Tel: 0300 123 1231 immediately.

Allegations against an Adult or volunteering within the Nursery

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 senior manager on duty. If this person is the subject of the allegation then this should be reported to another Designated Safeguarding Lead. Staff members should follow procedure (below) and also record:

- The person's behaviour with regard to the children
- The behaviour in the private or community life of a partner, member of the family or other household member

- A person's behaviour in their personal life, which may impact upon the safety of children to whom they owe a duty of care

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), Ofsted and the Local Authority Children's Safeguarding Officer 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, Local Authority Social Care Team) to determine how this will be handled
- The nursery will follow all instructions from the LADO, Ofsted, Local Authority Social Care Team 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 re-instated
- Founded allegations will be dealt with as gross misconduct in accordance with our disciplinary procedures and may result in termination of employment, Ofsted will be notified immediately of this decision.
- 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 10 years if that is longer. This will ensure accurate information is available for references and future DBS checks and avoids any unnecessary re-investigation
- 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.

Monitoring Children's 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.

Parents should please inform the nursery prior to their children taking holidays or days off, and all sickness should be called into the nursery your child's attending day or before so the nursery management are able to account for a child's absence. This should not stop parents taking precious time with their children, but enables attendance to be logged so we know the child is safe.

Looked After Children

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 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 or her
- The details of the child's social worker and any other support agencies and any other agencies involved
- Any child protection plan or care plan in place for the child in question.

Staffing and Volunteering

It is the policy of the nursery to provide a secure and safe environment for all children. The nursery will only allow an adult who is employed by the nursery to care for children and who has an enhanced clearance to be left alone with children. It won't allow volunteers to be alone with children or any other adult in the nursery regardless of whether or not they have a DBS clearance.

All staff will attend child protection training and receive initial basic child protection training during their induction period. 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 the staff will be given the contact details for LADO, the Local Authority Children's Social Care Team and Ofsted to enable them to report any safeguarding concerns, independently, if they feel it necessary to do so.

We have Designated Safeguarding Leaders, Jade Taylor, Kathleen Mahrous, Antonia Ferguson (Knight Hill) and Karen Hutchinson (Go Outdoors) within the nursery who take lead responsibility for safeguarding and co-ordinating child protection and welfare issues. The nursery's Designated Safeguarding Leaders 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.

- We provide adequate and appropriate staffing resources to meet the needs of 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 student's opportunities to declare changes that may affect their suitability to care for the children including anything in their private life, family members or medical background during probationary reviews, annual performance reviews and bimonthly supervision meetings.
- This information is also stated within every member of staff's contract
- We use the DBS update service to re-check staff's criminal history and suitability to work with children
- We abide by the requirements of the EYFS and any Ofsted guidance in respect to obtaining references and suitability checks for staff and volunteers, to ensure that no disqualified person or unfit person works at the nursery or has access to the children
- We ensure we receive at least two written references for every new member of staff and before they commence employment with us
- All students will have enhanced DBS checks conducted 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
- 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
- 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

- All staff will be provided with contact details for safeguarding during their induction
- 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.

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

EYFS: 3.6, 3.7

Legislation

The Modern Slavery Act, received Royal Assent on 26 March 2015. The act consolidates slavery and trafficking offenses and introduces tougher penalties and sentencing rules.

Background

Child trafficking and modern slavery is becoming a more frequent form of child abuse. Children are recruited, moved, transported and then exploited, forced to work or are sold on.

Modern slavery is a term that covers:

- Slavery
- Servitude and forced or compulsory labour
- Human trafficking.

Victims of modern slavery are also likely to be subjected to other types of abuse such as physical, sexual and emotional abuse. This policy should be used alongside the following policies to ensure all children, staff, parents and visitors are fully safeguarded:

- Safeguarding and child protection
- Whistleblowing
- Equality and inclusion

For an adult or child to have been a victim of human trafficking there must have been:

- *Action* (e.g. recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation)
- *Means* (threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, abuse of power or vulnerability) There does not need to be "means" for children as they are not able to give informed consent
- *Purpose* (e.g. sexual exploitation, forced labour or domestic servitude, slavery, financial exploitation, illegal adoption, removal of organs).

Procedure:

When a concern is raised about slavery or trafficking then we will follow our safeguarding procedure. If the child (or adult) is at risk of immediate harm then the police will be called, otherwise the local authority will be contacted and the referral process will be followed as per the safeguarding procedure.

Prevent Duty and Radicalisation

EYFS: 3.4, 3.6, 3.7

Extremism – the Prevent Duty

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) defines extremism. It states “*Extremism goes beyond terrorism and includes people who target the vulnerable – including the young – by seeking to sow division between communities on the basis of race, faith or denomination; justify discrimination towards women and girls; persuade others that minorities are inferior; or argue against the primacy of democracy and the rule of law in our society.*

Extremism is defined in the Counter Extremism Strategy 2015 as the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also regard calls for the death of members of our armed forces as extremist”

Under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 we have a duty to 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).

This may be a cause for concern relating to a change in behaviour of a child, family member or adult working with the children in the setting, comments causing concern or actions that lead staff to be worried about the safety of a child in their care.

Alongside this we will be alert to any early signs in children and families who may be at risk of radicalisation, on which we will act and document all concerns when reporting further.

The NSPCC states that signs of radicalisation may be:

- 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.

We will tackle radicalisation by:

- Training all staff to understand what is meant by the Prevent Duty and radicalisation

- Ensuring staff understand how to recognise early indicators of potential radicalisation and terrorism threats and act on them appropriately in line with national and local procedures
- Make any referrals relating to extremism to the police (or the Government helpline) in a timely way, sharing relevant information as appropriate
- Ensure our nursery is an inclusive environment, tackle inequalities and negative points of view and teach children about tolerance through British Values
- Using the Government document Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales

Domestic Abuse, Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage

EYFS: 3.4, 3.6, 3.7

The UK's cross-government definition of domestic abuse is:

"Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This abuse can encompass but is not limited to

- ✓ *psychological*
- ✓ *physical*
- ✓ *sexual*
- ✓ *financial*
- ✓ *emotional.*

The Serious Crime Act 2015 section 76 created a new offence of "controlling or coercive behaviour in an intimate or family relationship".

The Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 extended provisions to help stop domestic abuse and created the new offence of "causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable adult". This Act was amended in 2012 by the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims (Amendment) Act 2012 to include 'causing or allowing serious physical harm (equivalent to grievous bodily harm) to a child or vulnerable adult'.

Where domestic abuse is taking place in a child's home the child is at risk of harm, whether they witness the violence or not. This may take the form of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse or neglect. At Giant Leap Childcare we ensure that if there are any signs or symptoms that domestic abuse may be occurring we act without haste and follow our main safeguarding / child protection policy

Signs may include:

- Visible signs of injury on the adult being abused
- Changes in behaviour of the adult(s) and child – e.g. the abused adult may become withdrawn, show low levels of self-esteem
- One adult being visibly worried about what their partner may say in a certain situation (e.g. if the child has become dirty or injured at nursery)
- One adult becoming scared of their partner

- Adults becoming isolated from their friends or family
- Signs of abuse in the child (as per the main safeguarding policy).

As part of our duty to keep children safe we provide the following:
Support leaflets and numbers for females and males who may be experiencing domestic abuse

Honour based Violence

'Honour' based violence (HBV) is a type of domestic abuse which occurs in the name of so called 'honour'. Some families believe that certain actions bring shame on the family and may react with punishment. This may be rejecting a forced marriage, having a relationship not approved by the family, wearing the wrong clothing or wearing makeup. This can happen in families from a variety of cultures and countries and also happens within the UK.

Signs of HBV may include changes in behaviour of the person undergoing the violence, changes in how they dress or act and also in comments they make.

If signs of HBV are present in a parent or staff member within the nursery then we will act and follow our safeguarding policy to keep children safe in the environment as well as seeking support for the adult involved.

Forced Marriage

We are aware arranged marriages are part of some cultural practices. We also recognise there is a clear distinction between a marriage in which the both parties are willing and able to give an informed consent to, and a marriage which is forced. Forced marriage is a criminal offence.

A forced marriage is a marriage in which one or both spouses do not and/or cannot consent to the marriage and duress is involved. If we become aware of a forced marriage occurring then we will report it to the appropriate body. If the person is under the age of 18 then we will report it to the children's social care team as this is a child protection issue. We will follow our safeguarding reporting procedure.

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 details on this.

Nominated Officers

Setting	Designated Safeguarding Lead	Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads
Senior Nursery Manager	Jade Taylor	

Giant Leap Childcare	Kathleen Mahrous	Steph Rocke
Go Outdoors	Karen Hutchinson	Angela McKeown
Knight Hill	Antonia Ferguson	Dee Ellis

One of the Designated Safeguarding Leaders will always be available to provide guidance and support and should be the initial point of contact for anyone who may have concerns regarding a child's welfare. If the concern is related to the Designated Safeguarding Leader, the Nursery Director should be informed and the appropriate action will be taken.

The DSL will:

- Contact the Local Authority children's social care team to report concerns and seek advice. If it is believed a child is in immediate danger we will contact the police. If the safeguarding concern relates to an allegation against an adult working or volunteering with children then the DSL will follow the reporting allegations procedure (see below).
- Document any concerns- record the information and action taken relating to the concern raised
- Speak to the parents concerned unless advised not to do so by LA social care team
- The DSL will follow up. We never assume that action has been taken.
- Explain that you have a sensitive matter to discuss
- Thank you for coming, have you recorded it?
- Have you shared this with anyone else?
- Will get back to you when they have had contact with LADO

Adults Working with / Who Have Contact with Children

All adults who work with children within Giant Leap are checked for their suitability through a range of procedures such as:

- Enhanced disclosure
- References (professional and character)
- Full Employment History
- Qualifications, Training and Experience
- Interviews
- Any other check which may be undertaken (e.g. medical suitability)

If any concerns do arise in regard to a staff member/any adult who are working with children you must inform the safeguarding officer immediately. The relevant paperwork should be completed by yourself or the Designated Safeguard Lead. In the absence of the Designated Safeguarding Lead please inform the Nursery Director. All concerns will be investigated with all action taken recorded. During the investigation Giant Leap reserve the right to suspend any employee on full pay if they feel they may pose a further risk to the care of children.

Giant Leap have a duty to protect and safeguard all children within their care and may dismiss any staff members/adults who they feel pose a risk a risk to any children or do not comply with safeguarding policies and procedures.

All details will be recorded and the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) 01772 536694 will be informed within 24 hours, along with Ofsted Early Years notified online (Telephone: 0300 123 1231) as soon as reasonably practical and a further update within 14 days.

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 Designated Safeguarding Lead at the earliest opportunity.

Reviewed: 6/ 5/ 2026	Name: Jade Taylor	Signed: JTaylor
-------------------------	----------------------	--------------------