



SCALLYWAGS PRE-SCHOOL, HALWILL

SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

PURPOSE AND AIMS

The purpose of Scallywags Pre-School's safeguarding and child protection policy is to provide a secure framework for the workforce to emphasise early intervention, protection from harm and promoting the welfare of those children/young people who attend our setting. The policy aims to ensure that:

- All our children are safe and protected from harm.
- Other elements of provision and policies are in place to enable children to feel safe and adopt safe practices.
- Staff, children, committee, visitors, volunteers, and parents are aware of the expected behaviours and the settings legal responsibilities in relation to the safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all our children.

ETHOS

'Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential. A secure, safe, and happy childhood is important in its own right.' Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

Safeguarding in Scallywags Pre-School is considered everyone's responsibility and our setting aims to create the safest environment within which every child can achieve their full potential. Scallywags Pre-School recognises the contribution it can make in ensuring that all children registered or who use our setting have a trusted adult/keyworker with whom they feel safe and that they will be listened to, and appropriate action taken. We recognise that this is especially important for children who are unable to communicate e.g. babies and very young children that they have strong attachment to their care givers. We will work to ensure children's safety by working in partnership with other agencies i.e. Early Help, MASH, Social Care, Police, as well as seeking to establish effective working relationships with parents, carers, and other colleagues to develop and provide activities and opportunities that will help to equip our children with the skills they need. This will include materials and learning experiences that will encourage our children to develop essential life skills and protective behaviours.

This policy has been developed in accordance with the principles established by the Children Act 1989, and in line with the following:

- "Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023" ¹
- "What to do if you are worried a Child is being Abused" 2015 ²
- "Keeping Children Safe in Education" 2024 ³

¹ [Working together to safeguard children 2023: statutory guidance](#)

²

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419604/What_to_do_if_you_re_worried_a_child_is_being_abused.pdf

³ [Keeping children safe in education 2024](#)

- “The Prevent Duty” 2015 (Updated 2023)⁴
- “Information Sharing; Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers” Updated May 2024 ⁵

RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS

The management committee takes seriously its responsibility under section 11 of the Children Act and duties under “working together” to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; to work together with other agencies to ensure adequate arrangements exist within our setting to identify and support those children who are suffering harm or are likely to suffer significant harm. We recognise that all staff and management have a full and active part to play in protecting our children from harm, and that the child’s welfare is our paramount concern.

The committee should also ensure the following: -

- that the safeguarding and child protection policy is made available to parents and carers.
- that all staff and volunteers are properly checked to make sure they are safe to work with the children who attend our setting.
- that the setting has procedures for handling allegations of abuse made against members of staff (including the Playleader/Manager) or volunteers.
- the safe and appropriate use of cameras, mobile devices (e.g. smart watches) phones, technology and on-line equipment within the setting.
- the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 which places a duty on early years and childcare providers “to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism” (The Prevent Duty) is implemented, taking into account the Devon Children and Families Partnership (DCFP) ‘Prevent’ policies, protocols and procedures and ensuring the Fundamental British Values are implemented as stated in the EYFS.
- a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is appointed who has lead responsibility for dealing with all safeguarding issues in our setting.
 - The **Designated Safeguarding Lead** is **Lorraine Crocker**. If they are not available, then contact
 - The **Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead** **Jenny Bryant**.

(These persons can also be contacted with any safeguarding concerns).

- The Named Member of the Committee for Safeguarding is - **Stacey Bellamy**
 - **Email – safeguarding.scallywags@outlook.com**
- Our procedures will be annually reviewed and updated.
- Further information for Committee members / Trustees can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-duties-for-charity-trustees>

The responsibilities for the Designated Safeguarding Lead are: -

- to ensure that all safeguarding issues raised in setting are effectively responded to, recorded, and referred to the appropriate agency.
- To ensure all adults are alert to circumstances when a child and family may need access to early help

⁴ [Prevent duty guidance: England and Wales \(2023\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/prevent-duty-guidance-england-and-wales-2023)

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-practitioners-information-sharing-advice>

- All adults, (including volunteers) new to our setting will be made aware of this policy and the procedures for child protection, the name and contact details of the Designated Safeguarding Lead and have these explained, as part of their induction into the setting.
- Be responsible for arranging the setting's safeguarding training for all staff and volunteers who work with the children and young people. The Designated Safeguarding Lead must ensure that the safeguarding training takes place at least every three years for all with regular updates during this period, which they can deliver in-house provided they are linked into the support and quality assurance process offered by the Local Authority and the Devon Children and Families Partnership (formerly the Devon Safeguarding Children's Board).
- To attend or ensure that a senior member of staff who has the relevant training and access to appropriate supervision, attends where appropriate, all child protection case conferences, reviews, core groups or meetings where it concerns a child in our care and to contribute to multi-agency strategy discussions to safeguard and promote the child's welfare.
- For ensuring the acceptable, safe use and storage of all camera technology, images, and mobile phones through the implementation, monitoring and reviewing of the appropriate policies and procedures. This includes the On-line Safety Policy which includes Camera & Image Policy; Mobile Devices and Phone Policy; Acceptable Use Policy and the Tapestry Online Learning Journal Procedures.
- Implementing the Fundamental British Values.
- To ensure allegations regarding adults in the setting are effectively responded to and referred to the appropriate agency.

All Child Protection concerns need to be acted on **immediately**. If you are concerned that a child may be at risk, or is actually suffering abuse, you must tell the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

All Adults, including the DSL, have a duty to refer all known or suspected cases of abuse to the relevant agency including MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub), Children and Young Peoples Service (CYPS) – Social Care, or the Police. Where a disclosure is made to a visiting staff member from a different agency, e.g. Early Years Consultants, Health Visitors, it is the responsibility of that agency staff to formally report the referral to the Setting's DSL in the first instance and to follow their organisation's procedures. Any records made should be kept securely on the Child's Protection file.

RECOGNISING CONCERNS, SIGNS, AND INDICATORS OF ABUSE

Safeguarding is not just about protecting children from deliberate harm. For our setting it includes such things as child safety, bullying, racist abuse and harassment, visits, intimate care and internet safety etc. However, it must be acknowledged that technology itself will not present the greatest risk, but the behaviours of individuals using such equipment will. The witnessing of abuse can have a damaging effect on those who are party to it, as well as the child/adult subjected to the actual abuse, and in itself will have a significant impact on the health and emotional well-being of the child

The table on the next page outlines the four main categories of abuse as defined by the Department of Health 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' document. Adults should be aware that the possible indicators are not definitive although children's poor behaviour maybe a sign that they are suffering harm or that they have been traumatised by abuse, some children may present these behaviours for reasons other than abuse. However, it is important to know the indicators of abuse and to be alert to the **need to consult further**.

Type of Abuse	Possible Indicators
Neglect The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairments of the child's health or development. Neglect may	Obvious signs of lack of care including: Problems with personal hygiene Constant hunger Inadequate clothing

<p>occur during pregnancy because of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:</p> <p>Provide food, clothing, and shelter</p> <p>Protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger</p> <p>Ensure adequate supervision</p> <p>Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.</p>	<p>Emaciation</p> <p>Lateness or non-attendance at the setting</p> <p>Poor relationship with peers</p> <p>Untreated medical problems</p> <p>Compulsive stealing and scavenging</p> <p>Rocking, hair twisting, thumb sucking</p> <p>Running away</p> <p>Low self-esteem</p>
<p>Physical Abuse</p> <p>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 the symptoms of, or deliberately induces illness in a child</p>	<p>Physical signs that do not tally with the given account of occurrence conflicting or unrealistic explanations of cause repeated injuries delay in reporting or seeking medical advice.</p>
<p>Sexual Abuse</p> <p>Forcing or enticing a child 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, penetrative or non-penetrative acts and also includes involving children in watching pornographic material or watching sexual acts.</p> <p>This also includes peer on peer abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)</p>	<p>Sudden changes in behaviour</p> <p>Displays of affection which are sexual and age inappropriate</p> <p>Tendency to cling or need constant reassurance</p> <p>Tendency to cry easily</p> <p>Regression to younger behaviour – e.g. thumb sucking, acting like a baby</p> <p>Unexplained gifts or money</p> <p>Depression and withdrawal</p> <p>Wetting/soiling day or night</p> <p>Fear of undressing for PE</p>
<p>Emotional Abuse</p> <p>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 children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may also involve the exploitation or corruption of children or seeing the ill treatment or exploitation of others</p>	<p>Rejection</p> <p>Isolation</p> <p>child being blamed for actions of adults</p> <p>child being used as carer for younger siblings</p> <p>affection and basic emotional care giving/warmth, persistently absent or withheld.</p>

CHILDREN WHO HAVE SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND/OR DISABILITIES

All children have the right to be safe, yet research shows that disabled children are three times more likely to be abused. A number of factors have been identified as to reasons why these children are more at risk (see bullet points) and as a setting we are aware of these and endeavour to protect all our children.

- Assumptions that nobody would abuse or neglect disabled children ... *fact: they are 3 times more likely to be abused*
- Disabled children are well protected because of all the helpers they have ... *fact: this puts them at greater risk*
- Disabled children are not attractive to abusers ... *fact: abusers are usually driven by desire to dominate, and some disabled children can be seen as particularly helpless*
- You can't expect disabled children to be as well dressed and turned out as other children ... *when loved disabled children are as well turned out as other children.*
- Disabled children won't be believed ... and will not be able to give evidence in court .. *Many abusers think this – but with the right help and support all disabled children can tell or show what happened to them.*

- If the child cannot speak s/he cannot communicate ... *A wide range of communication systems and equipment is available and skilled people to help children communicate.*
- Abuse doesn't have the same effect on disabled children ... *fact: the betrayal of trust and hurt is as acutely felt as by any other child.*

Reproduced by: Scottish Government Ministerial Government Working Group (2014) Child Protection and Disability Toolkit.

CHILDREN WHO ARE ABSENT FROM EDUCATION

Children being absent from education for prolonged periods and/or on repeat occasions can act as a vital warning sign to a range of safeguarding issues including neglect, child sexual and child criminal exploitation. It is important that Scallywag Pre-School's response to children who have unexplainable and/or persistent absences from sessions supports identifying such abuse. This includes when problems are first emerging, but also where children are already known to Local Authority children's social care and need a social worker (such as a child who is a child in need or who has a child protection plan, or is a looked after child), where being absent may increase known safeguarding risks within the family.

PREVENT

The Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015 (updated 2023)

The Act places a Prevent duty on settings to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism".

Settings subject to the Prevent Duty will be expected to demonstrate activity in the following areas

- Assessing the risk of children being drawn into terrorism
- Demonstrate that they are protecting children and young people from being drawn into terrorism by having robust safeguarding policies.
- Ensure that their safeguarding arrangements take into account the policies and procedures of the Local Safeguarding Children Board – Devon Children and Families Partnership.
- Make sure that staff have training that gives them the knowledge and confidence to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism, and to challenge extremist ideas which can be used to legitimise terrorism
- Expected to ensure children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in the setting

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE CONCERNED

If a child makes a disclosure or allegation of abuse against an adult or other child or young person, it is important that you:

- Stay calm and listen carefully.
- Reassure them that they have done the right thing in telling you.
- Do not investigate or ask leading questions.
- Let them know that you will need to tell someone else.
- Do not promise to keep what they have told you a secret.
- Inform your Designated Safeguarding Lead as soon as possible.
- Make a written record of the allegation, disclosure or incident which you must sign, date and record your position using the setting safeguarding record log forms.

We recognise and understand that victims of abuse might not disclose that anything is happening to them. If you observe behaviour or a change in behaviour that causes you to be concerned that a child may be being sexually abused, you should report your concerns to the DSL and make a written record of the behaviour as above.

If you are concerned that a member of staff or adult in a position of trust poses a danger to a child or young person or that they might be abusing a child or young person you should report your concerns to the DSL. Where those concerns relate to the DSL, however, this should be reported to the Safeguarding Committee Named Lead (Stacey Bellamy at the time this Policy was adopted, or successor as notified on the Parent Information Board in setting). Please refer to our 'Whistle blowing' policy.

WHISTLEBLOWING

We recognise that children cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where staff fail to do so. All staff should be aware of their duty to raise concerns about the attitude or actions of colleagues via our Whistleblowing and Complaints policies and appropriate advice will be sought from the LADO or Safeguarding Team where necessary.

MANAGING ALLEGATIONS

We are aware of the possibility of allegations being made against members of staff or volunteers that are working or may come into contact with children and young people whilst in our setting. Allegations will usually be that some kind of abuse has taken place. This could include inappropriate behaviour displayed by members of staff or other persons working with the children such as inappropriate sexual comments, excessive one to one attention beyond the requirements of their role and responsibilities, inappropriate sharing of images. They can be made by children and young people or other concerned adults. Allegations are made for a variety of reasons:

- Abuse has actually taken place.
- Something has happened to the child that reminds them of a past event – the child is unable to recognise that the situation and people are different; Children can misinterpret your language or your actions.
- Some children recognise that allegations can be powerful and if they are angry with you about something they can make an allegation as a way of hitting out.
- An allegation can be a way of seeking attention.

If an allegation is made against an adult in a position of trust whether they be members of staff or volunteers this should be brought to the immediate attention of the DSL who will advise the Safeguarding Committee Named Lead or, if they are unavailable, the Chair of Committee. In the case of the allegation being made against the DSL this will be brought to the immediate attention of the Safeguarding Committee Named Lead or, if they are unavailable, Chair of Committee. The DSL/Safeguarding Committee Named Lead/Chair of Committee will need to discuss with the Local Authority Designated Lead (LADO) the nature of the allegations made against the adult, in order for the appropriate action to be taken. This may constitute an initial evaluation meeting or strategy discussion depending on the allegation being made. The Safeguarding Committee Named Lead or, if they are unavailable, the Chair of Committee will need to:

- Refer to the Local Authority Designated Lead (LADO) immediately and follow up in writing within 48 hours. Consider safeguarding arrangements of the child or young person to ensure they are away from the alleged abuser.
- Contact the parents or carers of the child/young person if advised to do so by the LADO.
- Consider the rights of the staff member for a fair and equal process of investigation.
- Advise Ofsted of allegation within 14 days of the allegation
- Ensure that the appropriate disciplinary procedures are followed including whether suspending a member of staff from work until the outcome of any investigation if this is deemed necessary.
- Act on any decision made in any strategy meeting.
- Advise the Disclosure and Barring Service where a member of staff has been disciplined or dismissed because of the allegations being founded.

A copy of **“What to do if you’re worried a child is being abused, Advice for Practitioners”** booklet is kept with this policy. This sets out the guidelines on dealing with incidents, disclosures and the procedures that must be followed.

Unsubstantiated, unfounded, false, or malicious reports

All concerns, discussions and decisions made, and the reasons for those decisions, should be recorded in writing. Records should be reviewed so that potential patterns of concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour can be identified, and addressed.

If a report is determined to be unsubstantiated, unfounded, false or malicious, the designated safeguarding lead should consider whether the child and/or the person who has made the allegation is in need of help or may have been abused by someone else and this is a cry for help.

In such circumstances, a referral to children's social care may be appropriate.

If a report is shown to be deliberately invented or malicious, the school or college, should consider whether any action is appropriate against the individual who made it.

CONFIDENTIALITY

- We recognise that all matters relating to child protection are confidential.
- The DSL will disclose personal information about a child or young person to other members of staff on a need to know basis only.
- However, all staff must be aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children.
- All staff must be aware that they cannot promise a child to keep secrets which might compromise the child's safety or well-being or that of another.
- We will always undertake to share our concerns with parents and guardians and their consent is sought in accordance with Early Help and MASH procedures unless doing so would increase the risk of harm to the child. If in doubt regarding sharing information with parents and guardians, we will consult with the MASH consultation team.
- We will take no names consultations with our MASH team to discuss concerns we may have, but we understand that if they then ask for a name we will disclose those details and it will become an enquiry.

TRAINING

All members of staff and volunteers will have access to safeguarding training at least every three years in line with Devon Children and Families Partnership. We will also, as part of our induction, issue information in relation to our Safeguarding policy and any policy related to safeguarding and promoting our children/young people's welfare to all newly appointed staff and volunteers. There will also be regular safeguarding updates at staff meetings/supervisions.

Our DSL will undertake further safeguarding training Group 3 DCFP multi-agency Safeguarding course or Group 3 Refresher Courses. This will be undertaken at least every three years which updates their awareness and understanding of the impact of the wide agenda of safeguarding issues. This will support both the DSL and deputy DSL to be able to better undertake their role and support the setting in ensuring our safeguarding arrangements are robust and achieving better outcomes for the children in our setting. This includes taking part in multi-agency training in addition to safeguarding training.

Our Committee will have access to safeguarding training and our Named Committee Member for Safeguarding will also undertake additional safeguarding awareness training at least every three years. They will also be advised to undertake additional training to support their employers' role in Handling Allegations against adults who work with children and young people, including our staff and volunteers.

Our safeguarding arrangements are reported on an annual basis to our Committee and our Safeguarding policy is reviewed annually, in order to keep it updated in line with local and national guidance/legislation.

We will include our Safeguarding Policy in our setting's prospectus/website and will post copies of our policy throughout the setting. We are also able to arrange for our policy to be made available to parents whose first language is not English, on request.

MOBILE DEVICES (IE SMART WATCHES AND TABLETS), PHONES AND CAMERAS

Sallywags Pre-School has policies and procedures in place with regard to the use of mobile devices, phones and cameras in the setting and on visits etc.

USEFUL CONTACTS:

Devon Children Families Partnership [The Devon Safeguarding Children Partnership \(Devon SCP\)](#)
 South West Child Protection Procedures [Welcome to the South West Child Protection Procedures](#)
 Devon Early Years and Childcare Service www.devon.gov.uk/eys
 Child Exploitation and Online Protection Agency [CEOP Safety Centre](#)
 NSPCC <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/safeguarding/>

Devon Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) 01392 388428

email: mashsecure@devon.gov.uk

MASH Consultation Line 0345 155 1071 (ask for Consultation Line)

Out of hours for CYPS (Social Care):

5pm -9am and at weekends and public holidays, please contact:
 Emergency Duty Service 0845 6000 388 (low-rate call)

Police Central Referral Unit: 0845 605 1166

Early Help co-ordination centre 0345 155 1071 (ask for Early Help) <https://www.dcfp.org.uk/early-help/> .
 Significant changes to the Early Help service have been made, which went live on 1 September 2024.

Early Help Locality Contact Information:

If you have concerns about a child but are unsure whether to make a MASH enquiry. Contact details can be found at -

[Early Help Locality Contact Information - Devon Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)

Call - 01392 383000

Child Protection Chairs and Local Authority Designated Leads for managing allegations against staff:

Allegations against staff LADO Referral Co-ordinator 01392 384964

<https://www.dcfp.org.uk/training-and-resources/managing-allegations/>

Devon's Domestic Abuse Helpline 0345 155 1074 Support for women, men and children.

[Devon Domestic Abuse Support Service « | Devon Services](#)

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub – MASH

- Manages contacts and enquiries received from any source (usually CYPS and Police 121A reports)
- Develops a document recording the concern information and all other available information in the Hubs within agreed timescales and an Early Years and Families manager makes an informed decision using all of the available information.
- Develops concern information into an Early Years and Families referral if services are required under section 17 or section 47 of The Children Act 1989
- Liaises with the Early Response Service for children and young people who need services but do not meet The Children Act 1989 threshold
- Provides consultation to agency enquirers about thresholds, appropriate action to be undertaken and services.

The Hub contributes to improved outcomes for safeguarding children because it has the ability to swiftly collate and share information held by the various agencies and to provide a multi-agency risk assessment of each case for 'actual or likely harm'.

CURRENT SAFEGUARDING ISSUES

The following Safeguarding issues are all considered to be child Protection issues and should be referred immediately to the most relevant agency. The issues featured below are linked to guidance and local procedures which can be found on the [South West Child Protection Procedures at Welcome to the South West Child Protection Procedures](#) (Direct links to the policies listed below are included where available).

E-Safety/Online Safety Children and young people can be exploited and suffer bullying through their use of modern technology such as the internet, mobile devices, phones and social networking sites. In order to minimize the risks to our children and young people Scallywags Pre-School will ensure that we have in place appropriate measures such as security filtering, and an acceptable use policy linked to our Online Safety policy. We will ensure that staff are aware of how not to compromise their position of trust in or outside of the setting and are aware of the dangers associated with social networking sites.

Our Online Safety policy will clearly state that mobile phone, camera or electronic communications with a child or family at our setting is not acceptable other than for approved setting business. Where it is suspected that a child is at risk from internet abuse or cyber bullying we will report our concerns to the appropriate agency.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

The sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people, (or a third person or persons) receive something, (e.g., food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affections, gifts, money) as a result of them performing and/or others performing on them, sexual activities. Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of

technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example, being persuaded to post sexual images on the internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain. In all cases those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidations are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child's or young person's limited availability of choice, resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability. (DCSF 2009) Link to guidance⁶

Good practice – Individuals Recognise the symptoms and distinguish them from other forms of abuse

- Treat the child/young person as a victim of abuse
- Understand the perspective / behaviour of the child/young person and be patient with them
- Help the child/young person to recognise that they are being exploited
- Collate as much information as possible
- Share information with other agencies and seek advice/refer to Social Care

Good practice – Organisations

- Ensure robust safeguarding policies and procedures are in place which cover CSE
- Promote and engage in effective multi-agency working to prevent abuse
- Work to help victims move out of exploitation
- Cooperate to enable successful investigations and prosecutions of perpetrators

Child on Child Abuse

Children can abuse other children, and this is referred to as 'child on child abuse'. This can take many forms including those listed in the table above as well as bullying, sexual violence, and harassment etc. Staff will raise concerns when there are issues of child on child abuse and the DSL will consider what support might be needed for both the victim and perpetrators.

Forced marriages (FM) FM is now a specific offence under s121 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 that came into force on 16 June 2014.

A FM is a marriage conducted without the valid consent of one or both parties, and where duress is a factor. Forced marriage is when someone faces physical pressure to marry (e.g. threats, physical violence or sexual violence) or emotional and psychological pressure (e.g. if someone is made to feel like they're bringing shame on their family). This is very different to an arranged marriage where both parties give consent.

FM is illegal in England and Wales. This includes:

- taking someone overseas to force them to marry (whether or not the forced marriage takes place)
- marrying someone who lacks the mental capacity to consent to the marriage (whether they're pressured to or not)
- In addition, since February 2023 it has also been a crime to carry out any conduct whose purpose is to cause a child to marry before their eighteenth birthday.

Link to the guidance: ⁷

Under-age Marriage In England, a young person cannot legally marry until they are 16 years old (without the consent of their parents or carers) nor have sexual relationships.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) FGM is child abuse and a form of violence against women and girls, and therefore should be dealt with as part of existing child safeguarding/protection structures, policies and procedures.

FGM is illegal in the UK. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, the practice is illegal under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003.

⁶

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/278849/Safeguarding_Children_and_Young_People_from_Sexual_Exploitation.pdf

⁷ [Forced marriage - GOV.UK](#)

Other than in the excepted circumstances, it is an offence for **any person (regardless of their nationality or residence status)** to:

- perform FGM in England, Wales or Northern Ireland (section 1 of the Act);
- assist a girl to carry out FGM on herself in England, Wales or Northern Ireland (section 2 of the Act); and
- Assist (from England, Wales or Northern Ireland) a non-UK person to carry out FGM outside the UK on a **UK national or permanent UK resident** (section 3 of the Act).

Link to guidance ⁸

Ritualistic Abuse Some faiths believe that spirits and demons can possess people (including children). What should never be considered is the use of any physical or psychological violence to get rid of the possessing spirit. This is abusive and will result in the criminal conviction of those using this form of abuse even if the intention is to help the child.

Sexually Active under Eighteen years old It is acknowledged by those working with young people that most young people under the age of 18 will have an interest in sex and sexual relationships. The Protocol for Sexually Active Young People under 18 years old has been designed to assist those working with children and young people to identify where these relationships may be abusive, and the children and young people may need the provision of protection or additional services.

Safer Recruitment and Selection It is a requirement for all agencies to ensure that all staff recruited to work with children and young people are properly selected and checked. At Scallywags Pre-School we will ensure that we have a member on every recruitment panel who has received the appropriate recruitment and selection training; that all of our staff are appropriately qualified and have the relevant employment history and checks to ensure they are safe to work with children in compliance with the Key Safeguarding Employment Standards. See recruitment policy

Honour Based Violence Honour based violence 'is a crime or incident, which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community'. It is important to be alert to signs of distress and indications such as self-harm, absence from setting, infections resulting from female genital mutilation, isolation from peers, being monitored by family, not participating in setting activities, unreasonable restrictions at home. Where it is suspected that a child/young person is at risk from Honour based violence Scallywags Pre-School will report those concerns to the appropriate agency in order to prevent this form of abuse taking place.

Trafficked Children Child trafficking involves moving children across or within national or international borders for the purposes of exploitation. Exploitation includes children being used for sex work, domestic work, restaurant/sweatshop, drug dealing, shoplifting and benefit fraud. Where Scallywags Pre-School is made aware that a child is suspected of or actually being trafficked/exploited we will report our concerns to the appropriate agency.

⁸ [Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation - GOV.UK](#)

Domestic Abuse: The statutory definition of domestic abuse, based on the previous cross-government definition, ensures that different types of relationships are captured, including ex-partners and family members. The definition captures a range of different abusive behaviours, including physical, emotional, and economic abuse and coercive and controlling behaviour. Both the person who is carrying out the behaviour and the person to whom the behaviour is directed towards must be aged 16 or over and they must be "personally connected" [The Government defines domestic abuse as "**Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality**"]

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 received Royal Assent on 29 April 2021. The Act introduces the first ever statutory definition of domestic abuse and recognises the impact of domestic abuse on children, as victims in their own right, if they see, hear or experience the effects of abuse. Staff need to understand what is required of them if children are members of the household where domestic abuse is known or suspected to be taking place. Our policy includes action to be taken regarding referrals to the Police and Children and Young People's Services and any action to be taken where a member of staff is the alleged perpetrator or victim of domestic abuse. At Scallywags Pre-School we will follow our safeguarding policy and report any suspected concerns regarding Domestic Abuse to the relevant agency.

Private Fostering Private fostering is an arrangement made between the parent and the private foster carer, who then becomes responsible for caring for the child in such a way as to safeguard and promote his/her welfare.

A privately fostered child means a child under the age of 16 (18 if a disabled child) who is cared for and provided with accommodation by someone other than:

- A parent.
- A person who is not a parent but has parental responsibility.
- A close relative.
- A Local Authority.

for more than 28 days and where the care is intended to continue. It is a statutory duty for us at Scallywags Pre-School to inform the Local Authority via MASH where we are made aware of a child or young person who may be subject to private fostering arrangements.

RELATED SETTING POLICIES

Safeguarding covers more than the contribution made to child protection in relation to individual children. It also encompasses issues such as child health and safety, bullying and a range of other issues, for example, arrangements for meeting the medical needs of children, providing first aid, setting security, drugs, and substance misuse, etc.

As new policy guidance and legislation develops within the remit of Safeguarding, we will review and update our policies and procedures as appropriate and in line with the Devon Children Families Partnership and Local Authority.

This Policy was reviewed and adopted on - 14th November 2024

Signed (Chair of Committee)Lorna Prickett Treacy.....

Signed (Safeguarding Lead)Lorraine Crocker.....

Signed (Committee Safeguarding Lead)Stacey Bellamy.....

APPENDICES

1. Model Safeguarding File
2. Safeguarding Record Log
3. Body Map Injury Detail
4. Staff Training (Safeguarding) Record & Review Dates
5. "What to do if you're worried a child is being abused"
6. Designated Safeguarding Lead for an Early Years and Childcare Provider (Roles, Responsibilities & Training Requirements)
7. Committee Safeguarding Responsibility
8. Flowchart for contacts re allegations/suspected abuse

9. Scallywags Pre-School Safeguarding : Poster with Designated Officer details
10. MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub):
 - a. When to Contact the MASH
 - b. "What does the MASH do?"
 - c. Risk Assessment
 - d. The Vision/Case Studies
 - e. Information for Parents and Carers
 - f. Making a MASH enquiry, DCC guidance and Enquiry Form
11. A One Minute Guide to Early Help in Devon plus leaflet <https://www.dcfp.org.uk/early-help/early-help-information-for-workers/a-one-minute-guide-to-early-help-in-devon>
12. Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool (Brook) [CPD: Brook Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool \(RSE\) Course](#)
13. DSCB "Bruising & Injuries in non-mobile children"
14. DSCB "The Golden Rules for Multi-Agency Working to Safeguard Children & Young People from Harm" (information sharing)
15. Guidance on Sharing Safeguarding Information at Transition
16. NSPCC "Child Protection Records Retention and Storage Guidelines" 2023 [Child protection records retention and storage guidelines \(nspcc.org.uk\)](#)
17. Private Fostering

REFERENCES:

Also see www.devon.gov.uk/eycs/for-providers/safeguarding/model-policies/

"Working Together to Safeguard Children – A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children." *HM Government, July 2018 Last updated December 2020*

"The Prevent Duty", *Department for Education, June 2015 Updated 2023* [Prevent duty guidance: England and Wales \(2023\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

"Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory guidance for schools and colleges, *Department for Education, Keeping children safe in education 2024*

"Children: Parental Responsibility – what it is and how it is gained and lost" (England & Wales), *House of Commons Library, 9 August 2017*

"Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 (updated 31 August 2018)" *available at* www.gov.uk

Online Sexual Abuse Guidance: Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre
www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre