

# **BEETLEY & DISTRICT PRESCHOOL**

Registered as a Charity Number 1181636

## **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) ADDENDUM**

At **Beetley & District Preschool** we work with children, parents, external agencies and the community to ensure the welfare and safety of children during the COVID-19 pandemic and to continue 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 during this time. We aim to take steps and make changes to ensure that children's welfare and safety is paramount.

### **Legal framework and definition of safeguarding**

In addition to the legislation laid out in our Child Protection Policy we will adhere to the following government guidance:

- Safe Working in Education, Childcare, Children's Social Care Settings including the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – 14 May 2020
- Coronavirus (COVID-19): Safeguarding in Schools, Colleges and other providers – 27 March 2020
- Actions for Early Years and Childcare providers during the Coronavirus – 4th February 2021
- Educational and Childcare settings National Lockdown – 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

During this time these important safeguarding principles will remain the same:

- with regard to safeguarding, the best interests of children must always continue to come first
- if anyone in a school or college has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately
- a DSL or deputy should be available
- it is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children's workforce and/or gain access to children

During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic we will achieve this by:

- Continuing to offer preschool sessions to vulnerable children (defined as those assessed under Section 17 of The Children Act 1989 as a Child in need, have a Child Protection plan or who are looked after; have an EHCP or have been assessed by Educational providers or local authorities as vulnerable) and children of key workers in the first instance.
- Opening the setting to all children.
- Offering help and support to parents who choose to keep their children at home by providing learning resources so they can continue with their child's development.
- Keeping up regular contact with families by speaking to them about any difficulties they may be having due to spending more time together than usual and signpost them to where they can get additional support.

- Remaining vigilant for signs and indicators of abuse and raise any concerns by following the settings safeguarding policy and procedures.
- Reporting immediately if we suspect a child is being or is at risk of being significantly harmed by neglect or abuse, following settings procedures.
- Following Norfolk's principles as set out in the Threshold Guide, continuing to effectively work together with other agencies, even in isolation by adapting working methods and making use of family's social media links and technology.
- Ensuring that where the use of social media and technology is used to maintain contact with families that this is done in a safe and appropriate manner, in line with settings policies and procedures.

## Procedures

- Carry out a risk assessment on the learning environment to highlight what needs to be altered to make it safe for children and staff to attend.
- Reduce the numbers of children attending at one time ideally with the same members of staff, limiting contact with others and so reducing the risk of spreading the virus.
- Children will not be able to bring in toys or comforters from their own home.
- They will be allowed to bring a bag with a change of clothes, hat, and sun cream.
- Parents will not be allowed entry into the setting but will have to line up on the school driveway maintaining a 2m safe distance from other families.
- Provide an outside handwashing station for children to wash hands before entering the session.
- Where necessary prioritise sessions to vulnerable children and those of key workers.
- Encourage attendance of children with a social worker and notify the social worker if not attending.
- Carry out a risk assessment on children with an EHCP to determine whether their needs can be safely met in the educational environment or if it would be safer for them to remain at home.
- A Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will be available on site during preschool operating hours or contactable by phone when working from home.
- Ensure best endeavours are met in providing a qualified first aider on site at all times.
- All child protection conferences will be held virtually until further notice.
- Provide home learning support and activities on FAMILY and through email for parents who decide to keep their children at home.
- Keep in regular contact with families offering support if needed.
- Signpost them to [www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/mentalhealth](http://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/mentalhealth) or the Norfolk & Suffolk NHS Foundation trust First Response number 0808 196 3494 if they need Mental health and wellbeing support.

- Report any death of a child to The National Child Mortality Database (NCMD) whether related to Coronavirus or not <https://www.ncmd.info/2020/03/20/covid19/>
- If a child becomes unwell whilst in the setting, they will be separated from the rest of the group, their temperature will be taken and parents/carers will be contacted to collect them. The person who is looking after the unwell child will wear PPE, face shield or mask, disposable gloves and apron. Any equipment the child has been in contact with will be cleaned following guidance set out in Covid-19: cleaning in non-healthcare settings (15 May 2020).
- Parents will be advised to seek a test for their child by using the 111 online coronavirus service and inform preschool of the outcome. If no test is available the child will need to self-isolate for 7 days and anybody else in the household will have to self-isolate for 10 days.
- If we have a confirmed case of Covid-19 from someone who has been attending the preschool, the preschool will shut. All children and staff will need to self-isolate for 10 days. If the children or staff develop symptoms within this time, they will need to get a test and their whole household will need to self-isolate for 10 days.
- Once the child has been collected, resources and the premises will under-go a thorough cleaning following the guidance set out in Covid-19: cleaning in non-healthcare settings (15 May 2020).
- Visitors will not be allowed in the preschool building, the gate to the preschool will be locked at all times and any visitors will need to ring the bell to get the attention of staff.
- When possible all doors and windows will be open to allow air to circulate freely through the building.
- Staff will follow a strict cleaning routine, as set out in the Covid-19 risk assessment.
- Staff will be offered lateral flow covid tests to do at home every three to four days whilst working. This is to help diagnose any members of staff who may have coronavirus but do not show any symptoms.

This policy will be reviewed on a daily basis and amended in line with any new guidance coming out.