



Engineers R Us

Safeguarding Policy

Engineers R Us provides a safe, secure environment for the children attending and we are committed to providing protection from harm and abuse and ensuring that the best interest of the children continues to come first.

We will respond promptly and appropriately to all incidents or concerns regarding the safety and wellbeing of a child that may occur during the attendance of the child in the club.

Child abuse and neglect

Child abuse is any form of physical, emotional or sexual mistreatment or lack of care that leads to injury or harm. An individual may abuse or neglect a child directly, or by failing to protect them from harm. The coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak may have caused significant mental health or wellbeing difficulties for some children and they may be at increased risk of harm or abuse.

Some forms of child abuse and neglect are listed below.

- **Emotional abuse** is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child so as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve making the child feel that they are worthless, unloved, or inadequate. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.
- **Physical abuse** can involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may be also caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes, ill health to a child.
- **Sexual abuse** involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. This can involve physical contact, or non-contact activities such as showing children sexual activities or encouraging them to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.
- **Neglect** is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and emotional needs. It can involve a failure to provide adequate food, clothing and shelter, to protect a child from physical and emotional harm, to ensure adequate supervision or to allow access to medical treatment.

Supporting Children's Wellbeing

Engineers R Us take children's wellbeing very seriously and the potential negative effects on children's mental wellbeing during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak is difficult to imagine and may require additional awareness and support to children that may have been affected, for instances:

- individual children who have found the long period at home hard to manage.
- those children who have developed anxieties related to the virus.

Some children may also have experienced bereavements in their immediate family or wider circle of friends or family or had increased or new caring responsibilities. This will affect their mental wellbeing

When a child makes a disclosure to a member of staff, that member of staff will:

- reassure the child that they were not to blame and were right to speak out
- listen to the child but not question them
- give reassurance that the staff member will take action
- record the incident as soon as possible (see *Logging an incident* below).

In addition, we will report the matter straightaway to the school nominated DSL. If a third party expresses concern that a child is being abused, we will encourage them to contact Social Care directly. If they will not do so, we will explain that the Club is obliged to and the incident will be logged accordingly.



Signs of child abuse and neglect

Signs of possible abuse and neglect may include:

- significant changes in a child's behaviour
- deterioration in a child's general well-being incl anxieties related to the virus outbreak.
- unexplained bruising or marks
- comments made by a child which give cause for concern
- inappropriate behaviour displayed by an adult. For example, inappropriate sexual comments, excessive one-to-one attention beyond the requirements of their role, or inappropriate sharing of images.

If abuse or neglect is suspected or disclosed

When a child makes a disclosure to us we will:

- reassure the child that they were not to blame and were right to speak out
- listen to the child but not question them
- give reassurance that the staff member will take action
- record the incident as soon as possible (see *Logging an incident* below).

If we witness or suspects abuse, it will be reported straightaway to the school nominated DSL. If a third party expresses concern that a child is being abused, we will encourage them to contact Social Care directly. If they will not do so, we will explain that the Club is obliged to and the incident will be logged accordingly.

Logging a concern

All information about the concern, suspected abuse or disclosure, will be recorded on the **Logging a concern** form as soon as possible after the event. The record should include:

- The name of the child and any information about them, such as age, date of birth, gender and whether they have any disabilities.
- Date and time at which the incident/concern/disclosure was logged.
- The name and role of person logging concern.
- Date and Time when incident/concern/disclosure happened.
- What the concern is about and when and where it happened.
- The names of anyone else present.
- What they saw or heard.
- The name and address of the alleged abuser, if known.
- Details of any historical information about the child that may be relevant.
- Details of what the person logging the concern said to the child.
- Details of any action taken by the person logging the concern or persons told about the matter.
- Name, signature and job title of the person making the record.

Completed forms will be handed to the Schools Designated Safety Leads (DSL) who will then decide on the best course of action.

For concerns about **child abuse**, we will contact the school nominated DSL, who will then decide on the best course of action.

For other concerns, we may choose to contact the Head Teacher or School's Child Protection Lead, or the Local Authority Designated Officer, to discuss the best course of action.

Allegations against Engineers R Us

If anyone makes an allegation of child abuse against us:

- The allegation will be recorded on an **Incident record** form. Any witnesses to the incident should sign and date the entry to confirm it.
- The allegation must be reported to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). The LADO will advise if other agencies (eg police) should be informed, and the Club will act upon their advice. Any telephone reports to the LADO will be followed up in writing within 48 hours.



- Following advice from the LADO, it may be necessary to suspend the member of staff pending full investigation of the allegation.
- If appropriate the Club will make a referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Contact numbers

Social Care: [as advised by DSLs]

Social Care out of hours contact: [as advised by DSLs]

Police: 101 (non-emergency) or 999 (emergency)

Local Authority Designated Officer:

NSPCC: 0808 800 500

This policy was adopted by: Gian Campetti	Date: June 2022
	Signed: Gian Campetti