



# **Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy**

## Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility

Child protection is integral to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. It involves actions taken to protect children at risk of significant harm. All adults, professionals, and volunteers share the responsibility to safeguard children and promote their well-being.

Effective safeguarding relies on collaboration among agencies and professionals with varied roles and expertise. Vulnerable children, particularly those at risk of social exclusion, may require coordinated support from health, education, social care, and other sectors, including youth justice services.

For children suffering or at risk of significant harm, joint efforts are crucial to ensure their safety and welfare, and to hold offenders accountable. All agencies and professionals should:

- Be alert to signs of abuse or neglect.
- Recognise risks posed by potential abusers.
- Share and analyse information to assess the child's needs.
- Contribute to actions that safeguard the child's welfare.
- Regularly review outcomes against specific plans.
- Work cooperatively with parents, unless it compromises the child's safety.



## Definitions of abuse and neglect

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting; by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. They may be abused by an adult or adults or another child or children.

### Physical Abuse

Physical abuse 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.

### Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is 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 feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.



### Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, including prostitution, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative (eg: rape, buggery or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

### Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food and clothing, shelter including exclusion from home or abandonment, failing to protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger, failure to ensure adequate supervision including the use of inadequate care-takers, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

### Staff/volunteer awareness

All staff and volunteers at Farnham Forest School will be made aware of this policy as part of their initial induction process and there will be regular briefings and updates.

This policy and procedure will be reviewed every year, this will include checking telephone numbers, accuracy of personnel details, and any updates required by a change in local or national policy.

Action to take if you have concerns about a child or young person:

You may have concerns because of something you have seen or heard, or a child may choose to disclose something to you. If a child discloses information to you, you should:

- Do not promise confidentiality, you have a duty to share this information and refer to Children's Services Single Point of Access.
- Listen to what is being said, without displaying shock or disbelief.
- Accept what is said.
- Reassure the child, but only as far as is honest, don't make promises you may not be able to keep eg: 'Everything will be alright now', 'You'll never have to see that person again'.
- Do reassure and alleviate guilt, if the child refers to it. For example, you could say, 'You're not to blame'.
- Do not interrogate the child; it is not your responsibility to investigate.
- Do not ask leading questions (eg: Did he touch your private parts?), ask open questions such as 'Anything else to tell me?'
- Do not ask the child to repeat the information for another member of staff.
- Explain what you have to do next and who you have to talk to.
- Take notes if possible or write up your conversation as soon as possible afterwards.
- Record the date, time, place any non-verbal behaviour and the words used by the child (do not paraphrase).



- Record statements and observable things rather than interpretations or assumptions.

Whatever the nature of your concerns, please discuss them with Farnham Forest Schools' designated safeguarding leads (Mandie Lloyd Purvis and Catherine Floyd). All Farnham Forest School Practitioners have a current DBS in place as well as undergoing safeguarding training - Safeguarding Essentials (Level 1).

Phone: 07588412127

Email: [contact@farnhamforestschool.co.uk](mailto:contact@farnhamforestschool.co.uk)

If you still have concerns, you should contact the **Children's Services 'Single Point of Access'** between 9am to 5pm on Monday to Friday:

Phone: 0300 470 9100

Email: [cspa@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:cspa@surreycc.gov.uk)

**For people with hearing or speech impairments:**

Text line: 07527 182861

**Sign Language Video Relay Service:**

Phone: 01483 517898

Email: [edt.ssd@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:edt.ssd@surreycc.gov.uk)

**For people with hearing or speech impairments:**

Text line: 07800 000388

Text relay (a speech-to-text translation service): 18001 01483 517898



In extreme cases where you feel a child's life is in danger you should dial 999 immediately. What information will you need when making a referral? You will be asked to provide as much information as possible. Such as the child's full name, date of birth, address, school, GP, languages spoken, any disabilities the child may have, details of the parents. Do not be concerned if you do not have all these details, you should still make the call. You should follow up the verbal referral in writing, within 48hrs.