

## **Safeguarding policy**

My first responsibility and priority is the safety and wellbeing of the children in my care. If I have any cause for concern, I will report it to the relevant bodies, following the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) procedures. The name of our LSCB is MASH – 01904 551900 Or out of hours on 01609 780780 and the LSCB procedures can be found at [www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk](http://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk)

I have a valid safeguarding training qualification, which I will renew at least every two years. I will also endeavour to keep up-to-date with any new information about safeguarding and child protection, and will update my policy accordingly to include any changes. I understand that child abuse can be classified as physical, sexual, emotional or neglect, and can also be a combination of these, and am aware of the signs and symptoms that may indicate abuse is occurring.

I have read, and understand, the following important documents:

- Department for Education Early Years Foundation Stage, Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements (2017)
- Prevent Duty Guidance (2015)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019)
- What to Do If You're Worried a Child Is Being Abused - A Guide for Practitioners (2015)
- Inspecting Safeguarding in Early Years, Education and Skills Settings (2019)
- Information Sharing Advice for Safeguarding Practitioners (2018)

Children will only be released from my care to a parent/carer or to someone named and authorised by them. A password might be used to confirm identity if the person collecting the child is not previously known to me. Should a child fail to be collected from my setting, I will call parents after 15-20 minutes. If I cannot reach them, I will next call their emergency contacts. If I still cannot reach anybody to collect the child, I will keep them at my setting for up to one hour. At this point, I would contact Children's Services for advice.

Parents/carers must notify me of any concerns they have about their child and any accidents, incidents, injuries or changes in circumstances which may affect the child. I will record any details necessary and ask a parent/carer to sign that they have seen my notes.

Unless I believe that it would put the child at risk of further harm, I will discuss concerns with a child's parent/carer if I notice:

- significant changes in a child's behaviour;
- deterioration in a child's general wellbeing and/or appearance;
- unexplained bruising, marks or signs of possible abuse or neglect;
- children's comments which give cause for concern;
- any reasons to suspect neglect or abuse outside the setting, for example in the child's home or while with a friend/family member.

If a child tells me that they or another child is being abused, I will:

- show that I have heard what they are saying, and that I take their allegations seriously;
- encourage the child to talk, without prompting them or asking them leading questions. I will not interrupt when a child is recalling significant events and will not make a child repeat their account;
- reassure the child that they can tell me anything that is worrying them, but that I cannot promise not to tell anybody because some things have to be passed on in order to keep them safe;
- explain what actions I must take, in a way that is appropriate to the age and understanding of the child;
- record what I have been told, as soon as I can, using exact words where possible;
- make a note of the date, time, place and people who were present during the disclosure.

I will call the local Children's Services duty desk for advice and an assessment of the situation. I will follow up this phone call at a later date if I obtain any further information on the matter, either from the child or a family member. I will record the concern and all contact with Children's Services in a safeguarding log, which will be kept locked away securely for the legally required length of time.

In all instances, I will record:

- the child's full name and address;
- the date and time of the record;
- factual details of the concern, for example bruising, what the child said, who was present;
- details of any previous concerns;
- any action taken, such as speaking to parents.
- details of any explanations from the parents/carers (if I feel it is safe to discuss the matter with them).

It is not my responsibility to attempt to investigate the situation myself.

I must notify Ofsted if any allegations of abuse are made against me, my assistant (where applicable) or a person living within my household. More details about this can be found in my 'Procedure for Allegations of Abuse Policy' and 'Other Adults in the House Policy'.

### **Prevent Duty**

The Prevent Duty was published in 2015 and it identifies the duty of care that all early years practitioners have to be vigilant in order to help to prevent children from being drawn into terrorism.

So what does that mean for childminders?

In order for childminders to fulfil the Prevent Duty, it is essential that they are able to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation and know what to do if they are identified. Protecting children from risk of radicalisation should be seen as part of childminders' wider safeguarding duties and is similar in nature to protecting children from other abuse, whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside influences.

I understand that there is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to a terrorist ideology. As with all safeguarding issues, I will be alert to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. I am aware that any child, from any background, can be the victim of radicalisation and as such, will report any concerns about a child. I will not discriminate based on the colour of their skin, their social class, their cultural background or any other such factors. All concerns will be passed on to Children's Services.

## **British Values**

The Prevent Duty Guidance defines British values as “democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs”.

All childminders in England are required to promote British values in their settings, through activities focused on Personal, Social and Emotional Development, as well as Knowledge and Understanding of the World.

By taking part in these kinds of activities, children will hopefully build their resilience to radicalisation and gain the confidence to challenge extremist views in later life.

I will provide suitable, age-appropriate opportunities which encourage children to respect each other’s views, beliefs and values, to understand that their opinions count, and to talk about their feelings. Activities will involve turn taking, sharing and collaboration. Children will be encouraged to understand their own and others’ behaviour and its consequences. They will have an input in creating rules and codes of behaviour for the setting. An ethos of total acceptance of all views, faiths, cultures and races will be created, where children will appreciate and respect their own and others’ cultures.

## **Whistle Blowing**

In my role as a childminder, I have a duty to report unacceptable behaviour (such as abuse, inappropriate comments, excessive one-to-one attention and the sharing of images without permission) to the relevant authorities; including that of assistants who may be working with me, other childminders, childcare workers and other professionals working with children. This action is necessary when their actions are detrimental to children, have placed a child at risk, caused actual harm to a child or are clearly illegal.

I will follow the listed procedure if I suspect any of the above has taken place:

- Identify the bad practice.
- Record exactly what was observed.
- Establish witnesses wherever possible.
- Keep copies of all correspondence and relevant information.
- Seek support from colleagues.
- Ask to be informed about the outcome.

In these situations I may need to contact the police, social workers, the care inspectorate and any other relevant bodies, then pass on any information known to me.

#### Useful Telephone Numbers

Local Social Services Duty Desk: 01904 551900

Local Police Station: North Yorkshire Police Station York, Fulford Road, YO10 4BY. Tel- 01904 618691

Ofsted: 0300 123 1231

NSPCC Child Protection Helpline: 0808 800 5000

Local Early Years Team: 01904 554444- [www.yorkchildrenscentres.org.uk](http://www.yorkchildrenscentres.org.uk)

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