

## **Privacy and Confidentiality Statement When Working with Children (Ages 6-18)**

### **Privacy and Confidentiality**

As a qualified Therapeutic Counsellor, I am committed to creating a safe and respectful space for your child. Confidentiality is a key part of building trust in the counselling relationship, especially with children and young people.

### **What does confidentiality mean in counselling?**

Confidentiality means that what your child shares in their sessions will not be disclosed to others, including parents, teachers, or other professionals, unless your child gives permission or there is a valid reason to break that confidentiality.

This does not mean keeping secrets from you as a parent or guardian, rather, it recognises that children and young people need to feel safe to talk openly in therapy. I will always work collaboratively to ensure you feel included in the process, while respecting your child's developing autonomy.

### **Working together with parents**

At the start of counselling, we will agree together, with both your child and you as their parent/guardian, what information will be shared and what will remain private. I aim to support open communication and work in a way that promotes your child's wellbeing.

I offer regular parent consultations and reviews to support the therapeutic process and provide general feedback, while keeping the content of sessions with your child confidential unless there's a reason to share.

### **When confidentiality may be broken**

There are certain situations where I may need to share information. These include:

- If I believe your child, or someone else, is at serious risk of harm
- If your child discloses something that leads me to believe a child or vulnerable adult is being abused, neglected, or is unsafe
- If I am legally required to do so (e.g. by a court order)

- When I speak with my professional supervisor (a standard and ethical part of counselling practice); no identifying information is shared in these conversations
- In most cases, I will aim to speak with you and your child before sharing any information, unless doing so would increase the risk of harm.

### **Data protection and privacy**

I keep brief, secure records of sessions, which are stored in accordance with UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR). I am registered with the **Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)** as part of Flourish Oxford's commitment to data privacy.

Records are stored securely and kept only for as long as necessary under professional guidance. You may request access to your child's records in line with legal and ethical guidelines.