



# Early Explorers

Day Nursery and Pre School

## **Safeguarding Children and Child Protection Policy**

Providers are responsible for ensuring they follow the current version of the framework relevant to their provider type.

Ensure you review this policy to be consistent with the guidance and procedures of your local safeguarding partners (LSP).

### **PART 1: Safeguarding Children and Child Protection Procedures**

#### **Introduction**

At Early Explorers, we are committed to providing high-quality care and education for the benefit of children, families, and our broader community. We uphold the safety and welfare of children as our paramount concern.

We believe that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. All staff, students, and volunteers must be vigilant, proactive, and ready to identify and report any safeguarding concerns, in accordance with this policy and other related policies.

This policy is supported by the following additional guidelines to ensure comprehensive safeguarding:

- **Acceptable Internet Use Policy**
- **Online Safety Policy**
- **CCTV Policy**
- **Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy**
- **Data Protection and Confidentiality Policy**
- **Recruitment, Selection and Suitability of Staff Policy**
- **Emergency Lockdown Policy**
- **Respectful Intimate Care Policy**
- **Inclusion and Equality Policy**
- **Social Networking Policy**
- **Late Collection and Non-Collection of Children Policy**
- **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy**
- **Lone Working Policy**
- **Staff Code of Conduct**
- **Looked After Children Policy**
- **Supervision of Children Policy**
- **Low-Level Concerns Policy**
- **Supervision of Visitors Policy**
- **Missing Child from Nursery Policy**
- **Volunteers Policy**
- **Missing Child from Outings Policy**



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- **Whistleblowing Policy**
- **Mobile Phone and Electronic Device Use Policy**
- **Young Workers Policy**
- **Nappy Changing Policy**

## **Training and Induction**

We ensure that all staff, students, and volunteers receive the necessary training and development opportunities to effectively safeguard children. This includes:

- **Induction Training:** All new staff and volunteers will undergo safeguarding training as part of their induction process, ensuring they understand their roles and responsibilities.
- **Ongoing Training:** Regular refresher training in safeguarding, including topics such as online safety, mental health awareness, Prevent Duty (counter-extremism), and child sexual exploitation.
- **Specialized Training:** Staff who have a specific responsibility in safeguarding (e.g., Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy) will receive additional, specialized training to keep up to date with evolving legislation and best practices.

This policy is reviewed annually to ensure it remains aligned with current statutory guidance and reflects changes to local safeguarding protocols. Its effectiveness is monitored through staff reviews, stakeholder feedback, and regular audits.

## **Policy Intention**

The key purpose of this policy is to:

- **Clarify the responsibilities of all staff, students, and volunteers in safeguarding children.**
- **Raise awareness of child protection and safeguarding procedures, ensuring all parties understand how to take appropriate action.**
- **Ensure a coordinated approach to identifying, addressing, and preventing safeguarding concerns.**

This policy applies to all children under the age of 18 years, including those living with their families, in care, or independently.

## **Definition of Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Children**

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children means:

- **Providing help and support to meet children's needs as soon as concerns arise.**
- **Protecting children from maltreatment or abuse, whether occurring at home, in school, or online.**



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- Preventing impairment of children's physical, emotional, or psychological health or development.
- Ensuring children grow up in circumstances that allow for safe and effective care to promote their well-being.

## **PART 2: Safeguarding Procedures**

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

At Early Explorers, the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is responsible for safeguarding and child protection matters. The Deputy DSL will step in if the DSL is unavailable. Their duties include:

- Managing safeguarding referrals, ensuring concerns are dealt with promptly and appropriately.
- Liaising with external agencies, including Children's Social Care, Police, Local Safeguarding Partnerships (LSP), and Ofsted, when necessary.
- Overseeing safeguarding concerns and ensuring appropriate action is taken.

All staff, students, and volunteers are responsible for:

- Recognizing signs of abuse or neglect and reporting concerns immediately to the DSL or Deputy DSL.
- Acting in accordance with the policy, following the correct procedures for escalating concerns.
- Maintaining confidentiality, sharing information only with relevant professionals on a need-to-know basis.

If any staff member feels uncomfortable reporting concerns to the DSL, they should escalate the issue to an external safeguarding body, such as the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) or Ofsted.

### **Safeguarding Concerns and Reporting Procedures**

If a safeguarding concern arises, the procedure is as follows:

1. **Immediate Reporting:** Any safeguarding concern, no matter how minor, should be reported immediately to the DSL or Deputy DSL.
2. **Record Keeping:** The concern should be recorded in writing, detailing what was observed or disclosed, along with any actions taken.
3. **Escalation:** If the DSL is unavailable or the concern involves the DSL, it should be reported to the nursery manager or designated alternate.
4. **Referral to External Agencies:** If concerns are not addressed or there is an immediate risk of harm, the DSL will make a referral to Children's Social Care or Police as appropriate.



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5. **Monitoring and Follow-up:** All cases will be monitored, and appropriate follow-up action will be taken. The wellbeing of the child will always be the top priority.

## **Allegations Against Staff**

If there are allegations made against a member of staff, student, or volunteer, these will be handled in accordance with the Allegations Against Staff Policy. This includes:

- Immediate suspension of the alleged perpetrator (if appropriate) while an investigation is conducted.
- Liaising with the LADO to ensure a fair and transparent investigation.
- Ensuring that the child is safe and their wellbeing is prioritized throughout the process.
- Taking appropriate action if the allegation is substantiated, including possible dismissal or legal action.

## **Safeguarding Children with Additional Needs**

We recognize that children with additional needs, including Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), may be more vulnerable to abuse and may find it harder to communicate their needs. Therefore, we will ensure:

- Extra attention is given to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children with additional needs.
- Adequate support and training are provided to staff to help them understand how best to support these children and recognize signs of abuse.
- We have procedures in place to work with external agencies to provide additional support when needed.

## **Preventing Online Harm**

Online safety is a major part of safeguarding. We aim to:

- Educate children on how to stay safe online, with a focus on age-appropriate information.
- Ensure staff are trained in spotting signs of online abuse or exploitation.
- Protect children from harmful online content by filtering and monitoring internet use within the nursery.
- Work with parents to ensure online safety is reinforced both at the nursery and at home.

## **PART 3: External Safeguarding Support**

If there are concerns that cannot be resolved internally, or if guidance is needed, the following external agencies will be contacted:



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- **Local Safeguarding Partnerships (LSP)**
- **Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)**
- **Children’s Social Care**
- **Ofsted**
- **Police (in cases of emergency or criminal activity)**

**These agencies can provide advice, guidance, and support to ensure that the child’s best interests remain at the forefront of any safeguarding matter.**

## Summary

**Early Explorers is committed to ensuring the highest standards of safeguarding, providing a safe and nurturing environment for all children in our care. We will continuously review and update this policy to reflect changes in legislation, best practices, and evolving safeguarding issues. Our goal is to ensure the protection and wellbeing of every child within our setting.**

**This policy applies to all staff, students, volunteers, and visitors.**

## Useful contacts

<b>Setting</b>	
Main office	0208 050 9684
DSL	Abimbola Akinsanmi
Deputy DSL	
Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)	020 8921 3930 LADO@royalgreenwich.gov.uk
Local Authority Safeguarding Children Partnership	020 8921 3172
<u>Ofsted</u> (England)	0300 123 1231
<b>Police and related contacts</b>	
Emergency police	999
Non-emergency police	101
<u>Child exploitation and online protection</u> (CEOP)	Online contact only
<u>DfE counter-extremism helpline</u>	020 7340 7264

<b>Other useful contacts</b>	
<u>Anti-terrorist hotline</u>	0800 789 321
<u>NSPCC Child Protection Helpline</u>	0808 800 5000



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<u>Childline</u>	0800 1111
<u>Kidscape</u>	020 7823 5430
<u>National Domestic Abuse helpline</u>	0808 2000 247
<u>Modern slavery helpline</u>	08000 121 700
<u>Crimestoppers</u>	0800 555 111
<u>Internet Watch Foundation (IWF)</u>	01223 20 30 30
<u>Information Commissioners Office (ICO)</u>	0303 123 1113

<b>This policy was adopted on</b>	<b>Signed on behalf of the nursery</b>	<b>Date for review</b>
<i>Aug 2025</i>	Early Explorers Day Nursery	<i>Aug 2027</i>