

Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy

Introduction

Blackwell Montessori Nursery Ltd believes that children learn best when they are healthy, safe and secure, when their individual needs are met, and when they have positive relationships with the adults caring for them' (EYFS 2012).

The Nursery fully recognises its responsibilities for safeguarding children under the current legal framework and this policy will support us in meeting these requirements.

The EYFS, Child Protection states:

- Providers must take all necessary steps to keep children safe and well (para 3.2)
- Providers must have and implement a policy, and procedures, to safeguard children. These should be in line with the guidance and procedures of the relevant Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) (para 3.4)
- Providers must have regard to the Government's statutory guidance '*Working Together to Safeguard Children*' (DCSF 2010:Consultation Draft DfE 2012) If providers have concerns about children's safety or welfare they must notify agencies with statutory responsibilities without delay. This means the local children's social care services and, in emergencies, the police (para 3.7)

The Aims of our Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy and Procedures are to:

- Ensure our practice is in line with the guidance and procedures of Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB)
- Ensure that our setting has measurable, effective procedures in place to safeguard the children in our care
- Support our staff to understand their roles and responsibilities
- Inform parents/carers of our safeguarding/child protection procedures
- Clarify the action to be taken in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff and/or any person living, working or looking after children at the premises
- Determine the use of mobile phones and cameras in the setting

Legal Framework:

- Under Section 40 of the Childcare Act 2006 – *Blackwell Montessori Nursery Ltd* has a duty to comply with the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS 2012), and to take all necessary steps to keep children safe and well
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2006)
- Data Protection Act (1998)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (DCSF 2010:Consultation Draft, DfE 2012)

Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB)

'WSCB consists of senior representatives of the main agencies which have a statutory responsibility to safeguard children. It is a forum for establishing and guiding the services in Worcestershire to safeguard, protect and promote the well-being of children'.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

The EYFS, Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements, state that:

- A practitioner must be designated to take lead responsibility for safeguarding children in every setting (DSL)
- The lead practitioner (DSL) is responsible for liaison with local statutory children's services agencies, and with the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)
- The lead practitioner (DSL) must provide support, advice and guidance to any other staff on an ongoing basis, and on any specific safeguarding issue as required
- The lead practitioner (DSL) must attend a child protection training course that enables them to identify, understand and respond appropriately to signs of possible abuse and neglect, taking account of any advice from the LSCB or local authority on appropriate training courses

At Blackwell Montessori Nursery Ltd the DSL is Klara Cernohorska and the Deputy DSL is Rebecca Jones.

The EYFS 2012 states that:

- Providers must train all staff to understand their safeguarding policy and procedures
- Training made available by the provider must enable staff to identify signs of possible abuse and neglect at the earliest opportunity, and to respond in a timely and appropriate way

WSCB and Worcestershire County Council (WCC) recommend that:

- The DSL/Deputy DSL update their safeguarding training every two years
- All other practitioners update their safeguarding knowledge every three years

At Blackwell Montessori Nursery Ltd

- All necessary steps are taken to keep children safe and well
- We ensure all staff are able to recognise signs of possible abuse and neglect through a thorough induction process, attendance at child protection training and effective supervision
- The WSCB and WCC recommendations regarding staff training are followed
- Current safeguarding/child protection training certificates are stored

Blackwell Montessori Nursery Ltd has registered with the ICO.

THE PREVENT DUTY

From 1 July 2015 all schools , registered early years childcare providers and registered later years childcare providers are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, in the exercise of their functions, to have “[due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism](#)”. This duty is known as the Prevent duty. It applies to a wide range of public-facing bodies.

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism. Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is seen as part of our wider safeguarding duties, and is similar in nature to protecting children from other forms of harm and abuse. During the process of radicalisation it is possible to intervene to prevent vulnerable people being radicalised. There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. It can happen in many different ways and settings. Specific background factors may contribute to vulnerability which are often combined with specific influences such as family, friends or online, and with specific needs for which an extremist or terrorist group may appear to provide an answer. The internet and the use of social media in particular has become a major factor in the radicalisation of young people.

Extremism is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

Blackwell Montessori Nursery has always actively promoted British values; see Promoting British Values Policy. Promoting fundamental British values helps children to become more resilient to radicalisation and enables them to challenge extremist views.

As with managing other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to changes in children’s behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. Staff should use their professional judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately which may include making a referral to the **Channel** program. Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

If concerns are raised and anyone has been identified as being at risk of radicalisation; staff should follow their normal safeguarding procedures.

They can also contact the local police force or dial 101 (the non-emergency number). The Department for Education has dedicated a telephone helpline (020 7340 7264) to enable staff to raise concerns relating to extremism directly. Concerns can also be raised by email to counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk or prevent@warwickshireandwestmercia.pnn.police.uk