

## **Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy**

At Brook Green Nursery, safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do. We are committed to providing a safe, nurturing, and happy environment where every child can learn, grow, and thrive. Protecting children from harm is a shared responsibility, and we work closely with staff, parents, and external agencies to create a culture where children's welfare always comes first.

Our Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy follows all relevant legislation and statutory guidance, including:

- The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- The Prevent Duty
- Local authority safeguarding procedures

Safeguarding is a core part of staff induction, and all team members receive formal child protection training, followed by annual refresher training. Safeguarding is also discussed regularly in team meetings and individual supervisions to ensure it remains a constant priority.

### **Our Commitment to Children's Rights**

Every child, regardless of age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, or religious belief, has the right to grow up safe, respected, and free from harm. All children deserve consistent, effective care, and it is the responsibility of every adult in our setting to recognise and respond to any signs of abuse or neglect.

Under the Prevent Duty, early years providers must also take steps to prevent individuals from being drawn into terrorism. Protecting children from radicalisation is approached in the same way as protecting them from any other form of harm.

Through our curriculum, we promote the fundamental British values of:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect and tolerance

These values help children build resilience, develop critical thinking skills, and learn to challenge negative or extremist ideas. Although known as "British values," they are universal principles shared by communities around the world and reflected daily in our practice.

### **Responding to Concerns**

If any member of staff has reason to believe that a child is at risk of abuse or neglect, they must report this immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), who is the nursery manager. In their absence, the trained deputy manager will deputise for this role.

If the statutory threshold is met, the DSL will make a referral to the local authority safeguarding team. Parents will be informed unless doing so would place the child at greater risk.

During any referral or investigation, we work promptly and cooperatively with:

- Children's social care
- The police
- Other statutory agencies

Our priority is always the safety and wellbeing of the child.

### **Safeguarding Through Education**

Safeguarding is embedded throughout our curriculum. At an age-appropriate level, children learn:

- What unacceptable behaviour towards them looks like
- How to express when they feel worried, unsafe, or upset
- How to seek help from trusted adults

We also introduce children to early concepts of online safety, using gentle, developmentally appropriate language.

To further protect children, the use of mobile phones, smartphones, and similar devices is strictly prohibited for staff while on duty or in any area accessible to children. We kindly ask parents and visitors to refrain from using mobile phones inside the nursery or during drop off and collection.

### **Promoting Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

A strong foundation in personal, social, and emotional development is essential for safeguarding. Through everyday interactions and planned activities, children learn to:

- Understand right from wrong
- Share, cooperate, and value others' views
- Recognise similarities and differences between themselves and others
- Challenge negative attitudes and stereotypes
- Manage risk and navigate difficult situations
- Build resilience, confidence, and independence

Our Key Person system ensures every child forms a secure, trusting relationship with a familiar adult, giving them the emotional security they need to explore, learn, and thrive.

### **Working in Partnership with Parents**

Safeguarding is most effective when parents and staff work together. We encourage families to speak openly with us about any concerns or questions they may have.

If you would like more information about our safeguarding procedures, please speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), who is the nursery manager. In their absence, the trained deputy manager will act as DSL.

Together, we can ensure that every child at Brook Green Nursery is protected, supported, and given the best possible start in life.