

6.0 Safeguarding Children, Young People and vulnerable adults policy v1.5

Date agreed by Committee	24/09/2025
Operational Date	25/09/2025
Date last updated	23/01/2025
Review Date	September 2026

Policy statement

Oldfield Pre-School (the "Pre-School") will work with children, parents/carers and the community to ensure the rights and safety of children and to give them the very best start in life.

We are committed to *building a culture of safety* in which children and young people are protected from abuse and harm in all areas of our service delivery.

We are committed to *responding promptly and appropriately* to all incidents, allegations or concerns of abuse that may occur and to work with statutory agencies in accordance with the procedures that are set down in 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused' (HMG, 2015) 'No Secrets' (updated by the Care Act 2014) and Working Together 2018.

We are committed to *promoting awareness* of child abuse issues throughout our training and learning programmes for adults. We are also committed to *empowering children* through our early childhood curriculum, promoting their right to be *strong, resilient, actively listened to, and heard*

NB: A 'young person' is defined as 16–19-year-old. In an early years setting, they may be a student, worker, or parent.

A 'vulnerable adult' (see guidance to the Care Act 2014) as: '*a person aged 18 years or over, who is in receipt of or may need community care services by reason of 'mental or other disability, age or illness and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation*'. In early years, this person may be a service user, parent of a service user, or a volunteer.

Building a Culture of Safety

- Our **Designated Safeguarding Lead** (previously called the DSL) co-ordinates child, young person and adult protection procedures. Our DSL is the manager, Nicola Dutton. When the setting is open but the designated person is not on site, a suitably trained deputy is available at all times for staff to discuss safeguarding concerns. The deputy DSLs are Emma Foster and Cheryl Sedgley.
- The DSL is responsible for overseeing all child, young person or adult protection matters.
- The DSL is overseen by the nominated Trustee
- The trustees are ultimately responsible for the safeguarding of children in the setting – there is a nominated representative on the board and the full board receives regular safeguarding updates. The nominated Trustee is Laura Paddock

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- The DSL (and any person who deputises for them) and the nominated trustee ensure they have relevant links with statutory and voluntary organisations with regard to safeguarding, children and understands local safeguarding procedures.
- The DSL and nominated trustee ensure they have received appropriate training on child protection matters and all staff are adequately informed and / or trained to recognise possible child abuse in the categories of physical, emotional and sexual abuse and neglect. The DSL and the nominated trustee ensure all staff are aware of the additional vulnerabilities that affect children that arise from inequalities of race, gender, disability, language, religion, sexual orientation or culture and that these receive full consideration in child, young person or adult protection related matters.
- The DSL and the nominated trustee ensure that staff are aware and receive training in social factors affecting children's vulnerability including
 - social exclusion
 - domestic violence and controlling or coercive behaviour
 - mental illness
 - drug and alcohol abuse (substance misuse)
 - parental learning disability
 - radicalisation
- The DSL and the nominated trustee ensure that staff are aware and receive training in other ways that children may suffer significant harm and stay up to date with relevant contextual safeguarding matters:
 - abuse of disabled children
 - fabricated or induced illness
 - child abuse linked to spirit possession
 - sexually exploited children
 - children who are trafficked and/or exploited
 - female genital mutilation
 - extra-familial abuse and threats
 - children involved in violent offending, with gangs and county lines.
- The DSL and the nominated trustee ensure they are adequately informed in vulnerable adult protection matters.

Responding Promptly and Appropriately

- **All staff are trained in line with the Criteria set out in Annex C of the EYFS (November 2025). Our training provider is Flick Learning and Cheshire West and Cheshire**

Safeguarding training is refreshed annually and renewed every two years.

The DSL ensures support, advice and guidance for all staff to meet their safeguarding responsibilities through regular supervision and 1:1 team briefings, bulletins, group supervision, reviewing safeguarding procedures together (check).

- There are procedures in place to prevent known abusers from coming into the organisation as employees or volunteers at any level.
- Safeguarding is the responsibility of every person undertaking the work of the organisation in any capacity.

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- There are procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against a member of staff, or any other person undertaking work whether paid or unpaid for the organisation, where there is an allegation of abuse or harm of a child. Procedures differentiate clearly between an allegation, a concern about quality of care or practice and complaints.
- There are procedures in place for reporting possible abuse of children or a young person in the setting.
- There are procedures in place for reporting safeguarding concerns where a child may meet the s17 definition of a child in need (Children Act 1989) and/or where a child may be at risk of significant harm, and to enable staff to make decisions about appropriate referrals using local published threshold documents.
- There are procedures in place to ensure staff recognise children and families who may benefit from early help and can respond appropriately using local early help processes and the DSL and nominated trustee should ensure all staff understand how to identify and respond to families who may need early help.
- Staff are supported to make the right decisions that enable timely and appropriate action to be taken.
- There are procedures in place for reporting possible abuse of a vulnerable adult in the setting.
- There are procedures in place in relation to escalating concerns and professional challenge.
- There are procedures in place for working in partnership with agencies involving a child, or young person or vulnerable adult, for whom there is a protection plan in place. These procedures also take account of working with families with a ‘child in need’ and with families in need of early help, who are affected by issues of vulnerability such as social exclusion, radicalisation, domestic violence, mental illness, substance misuse and parental learning disability.
- These procedures take account of diversity and inclusion issues to promote equal treatment of children and their families and that take account of factors that affect children that arise from inequalities of race, gender, disability, language, religion, sexual orientation, or culture.
- There are procedures in place for record keeping, confidentiality and information sharing, which are in line with data protection requirements.
- We follow government and Safeguarding Children Partnership guidance in relation to extremism.

The procedures of the Local Safeguarding Partners must be followed

Promoting awareness through training and empowering children

- All staff receive adequate training in child protection matters and have access to the setting’s policy and procedures for reporting concerns of possible abuse and the safeguarding procedures of the Local Safeguarding Partners.
- All staff have adequate information on issues affecting vulnerability in families such as social exclusion, domestic violence, mental illness, substance misuse and parental learning disability, together with training that takes account of factors that affect children that arise from inequalities of race, gender, disability, language, religion, sexual orientation, or culture.

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- We use available curriculum materials for young children, taking account of information in the Early Years Foundation Stage, that enable children to be *strong, resilient, and listened to and heard*
- All services seek to build the emotional and social skills of children and young people who are service users in an age-appropriate way, including increasing their understanding of how to stay safe.
- We adhere to the EYFS Safeguarding and Welfare requirements.

Legal framework

Primary legislation

- Children Act (1989 s47)
- Protection of Children Act (1999)
- The Children Act (2004 s11)
- Children and Social Work Act 2017
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2006)
- Childcare Act (2006)
- Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Relevant Agency (England) Regulations 2018

Secondary legislation

- Sexual Offences Act (2003)
- Criminal Justice and Court Services Act (2000)
- Equality Act (2010)
- General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) (2018)
- Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations (2009)
- Children and Families Act (2014)
- Care Act (2014)
- Serious Crime Act (2015)
- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (2015)

Further Guidance

- Working Together to Safeguard Children (revised HMG 2018)
- What to do if you are Worried a Child is Being Abused (HMG 2015)
- Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families (DoH 2000)
- The Common Assessment Framework for Children and Young People: A Guide for Practitioners (CWDC 2010)
- Statutory guidance on making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under section 11 of the Children Act 2004 (HMG 2008)
- Hidden Harm – Responding to the Needs of Children of Problem Drug Users (ACMD, 2003)
- Information Sharing: Advice for Practitioners providing Safeguarding Services (DfE 2018)

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- Disclosure and Barring Service: www.gov.uk/disclosure-barring-service-check
- Revised Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales (HMG, 2015)

Ofsted Early Years Inspection Handbook (2019)Change Log

Date	Version	Changes Made & Reason	Changes Made By
16/09/2021	1	New policy updated from S2 Safeguarding Children and Child Protection v7.2 due to Significant revision and split into Policy and Procedures. Renamed 6.0 Safeguarding Children, Young People and vulnerable adults policy	CFB
24/05/2022	1.01	Changed Safeguarding Trustee due to change of trustees	CFB
21/09/2023	1.2	Updated Designated Person, Updated guidance	CFB
23/01/2025	1.3	SoCCo changed to DSL – Designated Safeguarding Lead – ND is DSL and EF and CS are deputies	CFB
11/09/2025	1.5	Updated to include new EYFS September 2025 safeguarding amendments.	CAS

This policy was adopted at a meeting of Oldfield Pre-School

Held on 24/09/2025 (date)

Date to be reviewed September 2026 (date)

Signed on behalf of the management committee

Name of signatory : Kate Thomson

Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner) : Chair