



Appendix A – Safeguarding Concerns

Introduction

This appendix must be read alongside the Houghton and Wyton Pre-school **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy**. It provides staff, volunteers, and students with practical guidance on recognising and responding to specific safeguarding issues that may affect children in their care or in the local community.

All staff and volunteers have a duty to remain alert to signs and indicators of abuse and neglect and to follow the setting's safeguarding procedures without delay.

General Signs and Indicators of Abuse and Neglect

Staff, volunteers, and students must remain vigilant to the following:

- Significant changes in a child's behaviour.
- Deterioration in a child's general well-being.
- Unexplained bruising, marks, injuries, or other signs of abuse or neglect.
- Comments made by children during play or other activities that raise concerns.
- Patterns of absence or frequent absences.
- Suspicions of neglect or abuse in the child's home environment.
- Inappropriate behaviour displayed by staff, volunteers, or others working with children.

Domestic Abuse (DA)

- Defined under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, including coercive, controlling, physical, emotional, financial, or sexual abuse
- Children are recognised as victims in their own right if they see, hear, or experience the effects
- Concerns may relate to incidents in the family home or teenage relationships (child-on-child abuse)
- The setting is part of **Operation Encompass**, receiving timely notifications from the police of DA incidents
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) decides on appropriate support and liaises with other professionals as needed

Bruising or Injuries in Pre-Mobile Babies

- The setting follows the Bruising in Pre-Mobile Babies Protocol (CPSCP)
- Any injury in a non-mobile baby or disabled child must be treated with heightened concern and referred to the DSL immediately
- Known birthmarks or conditions should be documented during registration

Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

- Children with additional needs are statistically more vulnerable
- Staff must be alert to behavioural indicators when children cannot express themselves verbally
- Training is provided in communication tools such as Makaton or PECS as needed
- The setting will seek advice and support from relevant professionals when necessary

Parental Substance Misuse

- Staff will act where drug or alcohol use is suspected to be impacting parenting capacity



- Risk indicators include:
 - Use of family resources for substances
 - Exposure to unsafe adults
 - Unsafe or neglectful supervision
 - Withdrawal symptoms impacting mood or supervision
 - Poor physical care and home conditions

Children Misusing Drugs or Alcohol

- May indicate vulnerability to other forms of abuse (e.g., exploitation)
- Concerns are always reported to the DSL and assessed using a safeguarding lens

Children with Family Members in Prison

- These children may be vulnerable to stigma, mental health concerns, or inconsistent care
- Staff work with families to provide appropriate emotional and practical support

Young Carers

- Identified as vulnerable and may require additional support
- Staff will:
 - Recognise the signs of young carers
 - Offer internal support and refer to Early Help or Social Care where needed

Online Safety

Children must be protected from risks online, including:

- Content: harmful material
- Contact: unsafe communication
- Conduct: inappropriate behaviour
- Commerce: scams, fraud, gambling

Best practices include:

- Whole-setting approach to online safety
- Staff training and policies
- Monitoring and risk assessment
- Secure data handling in line with GDPR

Honour-Based Abuse (HBA) Includes:

- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Breast Ironing
- Forced Marriage

These practices are serious safeguarding concerns and must be reported to the DSL immediately. Known or suspected FGM involving a girl under 18 must be reported to the police.

Exploitation and Radicalisation

- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) involve coercion and abuse of power
- May involve grooming, sexual acts, drug running, gang involvement, or trafficking
- The DSL will use the local Exploitation Risk Assessment Tool and make timely referrals



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- Radicalisation: The setting follows the Prevent Duty (2015) and Revised Prevent Guidance (2021)
 - Staff complete Prevent training and refresh every 2 years
 - Concerns are referred through the local safeguarding channels

Child-on-Child Abuse Includes:

- Bullying (including cyberbullying)
- Physical or sexual violence
- Harmful sexual behaviour
- Upskirting
- Coercive behaviour in peer relationships

The setting will:

- Be clear that child-on-child abuse is never acceptable
- Provide training to all staff
- Support victims sensitively and assess risk
- Make referrals to external agencies as needed
- Ensure children with SEND and those identifying as LGBT+ are supported appropriately

Sexual Violence and Harassment

- May occur online or in person, and within any age group
- The setting supports victims with dignity, compassion, and confidentiality
- The wishes of the victim are considered when making decisions
- Allegations are investigated in line with statutory guidance

Monitoring and Review

This appendix is reviewed annually, or earlier if statutory or local guidance changes.

Legislation and Guidance

This appendix aligns with the following:

- Children Acts 1989 & 2004
- Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018, updated 2023)
- Statutory Framework for the EYFS (2023)
- Statutory Guidance on FGM (2020)
- Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015
- Prevent Duty (2015), updated 2021
- Data Protection Act 2018
- UK GDPR

Acknowledgment

All staff, students, volunteers, and trustees are required to confirm they have read and understood this appendix and will remain alert to safeguarding risks. They must follow the setting's procedures to ensure all children are kept safe from harm.