

Abuse allegations policy

INTRODUCTION

Unfortunately, child abuse does occasionally take place in day care settings, so we have introduced this separate policy to remind staff of the measures that can be taken to reduce the risk of any allegations being made against them or another member of staff. It also contains the procedure, which will be undertaken if an allegation is made against a member of staff. This complies with both Ofsted and Social Services.

How we can protect ourselves?

- If a child sustains an injury whilst in our care, we will record it in the accident book as soon as possible.
- When the child is collected, we will inform whoever picks the child up about the injury and ensure that they also sign the accident book.
- If a child arrives with an injury sustained elsewhere we must ask for an explanation and again record this in the accident book and ask whoever has brought in the child to sign the record.
- We will ensure that all staff undertakes regular child safeguarding training.
- We will ensure that all parents understand our role and responsibility in child protection. Within the nursery this will be to inform parents in writing within the prospectus before the child begins to attend St Paulinus Pre-School
- Our behavioural management policy states that no physical sanctions will be used and we will ensure that everyone complies with it in all rooms within the setting.
- We will try to avoid situations where an adult is left alone in a room with a child. If this does occur, we will make sure that the door is left open and there are other people around.
- We will avoid engaging in rough physical play with children as this may be misconstrued and could cause accidental injury to a child.
- We will avoid doing things of a personal nature for children that they can do for themselves.
- We will take up references for new employees, including one from the candidate's last employer, and will always question any gaps in employment history.
- We will encourage an "open door" ethos, to enable staff to talk to senior managers if they have concerns about the conduct of any of their colleagues.

What happens if an allegation of abuse is made against a member of staff?

- If anyone makes an allegation of abuse against a member of our staff, The Safeguarding lead (Pre-school manager) or Chair of the Trustees will be informed immediately
- They will assess whether the allegation reaches the threshold for referral to Police/Social Services and advise accordingly regarding further action to be taken in respect of the child and the member of staff.
- The Safeguarding Lead will complete the attached form for recording allegations or complaints made against staff.
- The safeguarding Lead will not discuss the allegation with the member of staff concerned, unless advised to do so by Social Services.
- All staff need to be aware that it is a disciplinary offence not to report concerns about the conduct of a colleague that could place a child at risk. When in doubt – consult.
- If Social Services and/or the police decide to carry out an investigation, it may be possible that Ofsted will advise us to suspend the member of staff, whilst enquiries are carried out.
- St Paulinus Pre-School could also invoke their disciplinary procedure.
- We will not carry out an investigation ourselves unless Social Services and the Police decide it is not appropriate for them to do so. We understand that Ofsted may wish to undertake further investigations.

NOTES:

- The Safeguard Lead is Lee Gasson (Pre-school manager)
- The deputy Safeguard Lead is Sue Boswell
- The Local Area Designated Lead (LADO) can be contacted on 03000 41 08 88. The LADO may also be contacted by using the following email address:
GCSXsafeguardingunit@kent.gcsx.gov.uk

Always remember: The welfare of the child is paramount.

Guidance for managers

When completing a checklist for handling and recording allegations or complaints of abuse made against a member of staff regarding a child/children in their care:-

1. Record the name and position of member of staff against whom the allegation or complaint has been made.
2. Verbal complaints should be backed up in writing by the complainant if appropriate; some may require immediate action that does not allow time for this to happen.
3. It is important to identify who made the complaint and whether it was received first hand or is a concern that is passed on from somebody else. If this is the case it is better that you receive the information first hand. If a parent, carer or a member of staff at St Paulinus Pre-School makes a complaint against you it must be passed immediately to your line manager.
4. Record the full name, age and date of birth of the child.
5. The address recorded should be the address at which the child lives with the main carer.
6. If there are one or more alleged incidents, be specific as possible about dates that they are alleged to have happened.
7. Check the attendance register/ diary of work to see if the child was present/seen on that day and the shift patterns of the staff member involved to see if they were working at that time. This will confirm the likelihood of the incident having taken place.
8. If you have received the complaint in writing attach it to the checklist. You can then summarise it on the form.

Any other information should be factual. It will be helpful if you can confirm things such as the level of contact that the staff member has with the child and any other minor concerns that may have been raised previously. Do not attempt to investigate the complaint yourself.

Remember that if an allegation of abuse is made against a member of our staff you must inform the designated person who will contact the Children's Safeguards Unit for further advice.

Ofsted must be informed if an allegation is made against a member of our staff, even if the Children's Safeguards Unit decides no further action is required. Ofsted may do their own investigation to ensure that registration requirements are being met.

Make a note of any actions the Children's Safeguards Unit or Ofsted advise you to take and the date or times at which you implemented them.

If the allegation is against the designated person then you should speak to the Pre-School Leader or Chair of Trustees who will follow the procedures above.

St Paulinus Pre-school Group
Ofsted No. 127618 Registered Charity No. 1054662

Checklist for handling and recording allegations or complaints of abuse made against a member of staff regarding children in their care.

- Name/position of accused: _____
- Is the complaint written or verbal? _____
- Name of complainant: _____ Relationship to child: _____
- Name of Child: _____ DOB. _____
- Parent's/Carer's name and address: _____
_____ Postcode _____

- Date of incident(s) _____
- Confirm child attend on these dates?
- Nature of complaint (attach written complaints)

- Other relevant information:

- Name of Social Services contact, date and time:

- Actions advised:

- Name of Ofsted contact, date and time:

- Actions advised:

- Your name/position: _____

Signature: _____ Today's date: _____

For full Kent County Council Guidelines see: <http://www.kelsi.org.uk/>

[http://www.kelsi.org.uk/pupil_support_and_wellbeing/safety,_health_and_wellbeing/child_protection_safeguarding/policies_and_guidance/managing_staff_allegations.aspx]