



Out of School Club

Safeguarding Children Policy

Fizz Pop Science is unwaveringly committed to fostering a 'culture of safety,' ensuring the protection of the children under our care from abuse, harm, and radicalization.

We would respond promptly and appropriately to any incidents or concerns pertaining to incidents or concerns of abuse that may occur.

Our child protection protocols are in full compliance with pertinent legislation and adhere rigorously to the guidance provided by the local the safeguarding partnership group.

At Fizz Pop Science, a designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is always available during our sessions. This DSL plays a central role in orchestrating safeguarding and child protection matters and maintains essential communication with the appropriate external agencies.

Our designated DSL is Stuart Janes. Through these dedicated individuals, we ensure the comprehensive coordination of safeguarding efforts and prioritise the safety and well-being of the children who participate in all our programmes.

Forms of child abuse and neglect

Child abuse is any form of physical, emotional, or sexual mistreatment or lack of care that leads to injury or harm. An individual may abuse or neglect a child directly, or by failing to protect a child from harm. The following are some signs often associated with particular types of child abuse and neglect. These types of abuse are more often found in combination than alone.

- **Emotional abuse** is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve making the child feel that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.
- **Physical abuse** can involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may be also caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes, ill health to a child.
- **Sexual abuse** involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. This can involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts, or non-contact activities such as showing children pornographic materials, sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.
- **Neglect** is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and emotional needs. Neglect can involve a failure to:
 - provide adequate food, clothing, and shelter
 - protect a child from physical and emotional harm
 - ensure adequate supervision
 - allow access to medical treatment.
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- **Extremism and Radicalisation** Children can be influenced by extremism or radicalisation from family members and/or direct contact with extremist groups and organisations or, increasingly, through the internet via Social media or other websites. This can put a young

person at risk of being drawn into criminal activity and has the potential to lead to the child or young person suffering significant harm'.

If abuse is suspected or disclosed

When a child makes a disclosure to a member of staff, that member of staff will:

- Reassure the child that they were not to blame and were right to talk to them.
- Listen to the child but not question them.
- Give reassurance that the staff member will act.
- Record the incident as soon as possible (see below).

If a member of staff witnesses or suspects abuse, they will record the incident straight away. If a third party expresses concern that a child is being abused, we will encourage them to contact Social Care directly. If they will not, we will explain that the Club is obliged to, and the incident will be logged accordingly.

Logging an incident

All information about the suspected abuse or disclosure will be recorded as soon as possible after the event. The record should include:

- Date of the disclosure or the incident causing concern
- Date and time at which the record was made.
- Name and date of birth of the child involved.
- A factual report of what happened. When recording a disclosure, it is essential to use the child's own words.
- Name, signature, and job title of the person making the record.

The record will be given to the school's CPO only, who will decide whether they need to contact Social Care or make a referral. Any instructor will also report a brief outline of the event to Fizz Pop Science DSL and CPO so they are aware, but no names or explicit details will be passed on. If Fizz Pop Science feels the school is not acting on this information appropriately, we may call Social Care ourselves and allow the instructor present to inform them.

Allegations against staff

If anyone makes an allegation of child abuse against a member of staff:

- The allegation will be recorded in the Incident Book. Any witnesses to the incident should sign and date the entry to confirm it.
- The allegation must be reported to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and Ofsted. The LADO will advise if other agencies (e.g., police) should be informed, and the Club will act upon the advice.
- Following advice from the LADO, it may be necessary to suspend the member of staff pending a full investigation of the allegation.
- Where required Fizz Pop Science will make a referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Promoting awareness among staff

The Club will promote awareness of child abuse issues throughout its staff training. The Club will ensure that:

- Its designated CPO has relevant experience and receives appropriate training every 2 years
- Safe recruitment practices are followed for all staff.
- All staff have a copy of the Safeguarding Children Policy, understand its contents, and are vigilant to signs of abuse or neglect.
- All staff are aware of their statutory requirements with regard to the disclosure or discovery of child abuse

- Fizz Pop Science procedures are in line with the guidance within 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'.

Contact numbers

LSCB (Local Safeguarding Children Board):

Ofsted: 0300 123 1231

Police: 101

NSPCC: 0808 800 500