



Bluebell Bushcraft

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Safeguarding Policy

During the COVID Pandemic we have continued to follow our setting safeguarding policies and procedures, and any additional considerations during this time specifically related to COVID have been identified in Annexe 1.

Purpose and Aims

The purpose of Bluebell Bushcraft's safeguarding and child protection policy is to provide a secure framework for the workforce in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of those who attend our setting. The policy aims to ensure that:

- All our children, young people and vulnerable adults are safe and protected from harm.
- Other elements of provision and policies are in place to enable participants and staff to feel safe and adopt safe practices;
- Staff, children, visitors, volunteers and parents are aware of the expected behaviours' and the settings legal responsibilities in relation to the safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all of our attendees.

Ethos

'Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential. A secure, safe and happy childhood is important in its own right.' Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

Safeguarding in Bluebell Bushcraft is considered everyone's responsibility and our setting aims to create the safest environment within which everyone has the opportunity to achieve their full potential. Bluebell Bushcraft recognises the contribution it can make in ensuring that all who register or who use our setting have trusted adult with whom they feel safe and that they will be listened to and appropriate action taken. We recognise that this especially important for children and vulnerable adults who are unable to communicate clearly e.g. babies and very young children; that they have strong attachment to their care givers. We will work to ensure children's safety by working in partnership with other agencies i.e. Early Help, MASH, Police and Social care as well as seeking to establish effective working relationships with parents, carers and other colleagues to develop and provide activities and opportunities that will help to equip our children with the skills they need. This will include materials and learning



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experiences that will encourage our learners to develop essential life skills and protective behaviours.

This policy has been developed in accordance with the principles established by the Children Act 1989; and in line with the following:

- Working Together to Safeguard Children · What to do if you are worried a Child is being Abused · Keeping Children Safe in Education · The Prevent Duty 2015 advice for childcare settings · Information Sharing; Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers

Responsibilities and expectations

The proprietor takes seriously its responsibility under section 11 of the Children Act and duties under “working together” to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; to work together with other agencies to ensure adequate arrangements exist within our setting to identify, and support those children who are suffering harm or are likely to suffer significant harm. We recognise that all staff and management have a full and active part to play in protecting our children from harm, and that the child’s welfare is our paramount concern.

The proprietor should also ensure the following:-

- that the safeguarding and child protection policy is made available to parents and carers.
- that all staff and volunteers are properly checked to make sure they are safe to work with the children who attend our setting.
- that the setting has procedures for handling allegations of abuse made against members of staff (including the Manager) or volunteers.
- the safe and appropriate use of cameras, mobile phones, technology and online equipment within the setting.
- the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 which places a duty on early years and childcare providers “to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism” (The Prevent Duty) is implemented, taking into account the Local authorities ‘Prevent’ policies, protocols and procedures and ensuring the Fundamental British Values are implemented as stated in the EYFS.
- a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is appointed who has lead responsibility for dealing with all safeguarding issues in our setting.



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- o The Designated Safeguarding Lead is Matt Harder. If they are not available, then contact West Sussex MASH (0330 2226664)
- o The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (Pippa Harder) (This person can also be contacted with any safeguarding concerns).
- Our procedures will be annually reviewed and updated.

The responsibilities for the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) are:-

- to ensure that all safeguarding issues raised in the setting are effectively responded to, recorded and referred to the appropriate agency.
- To ensure all adults are alert to circumstances when a child and family may need access to early help
- All adults, (including volunteers) new to our setting will be made aware of this policy and the procedures for child protection, the name and contact details of the DSL and have these explained, as part of their induction into the setting.
- Be responsible for arranging the settings safeguarding training for all staff and volunteers who work with the children and young people. The DSL must ensure that the safeguarding training takes place at least every three years for all with regular updates during this period; which they can deliver in-house provided they are linked in to the support and quality assurance process offered by the Local Authority.
- to attend or ensure that a senior member of staff who has the relevant training and access to appropriate supervision, attends where appropriate, all child protection case conferences, reviews, core groups, or meetings where it concerns a child in our care and to contribute to multi-agency strategy discussions to safeguard and promote the child's welfare.
- for ensuring the acceptable, safe use and storage of all camera technology, images, and mobile phones through the implementation, monitoring and reviewing of the appropriate policies and procedures. This includes the on-line Safety Policy which includes Camera & Image Policy, Mobile Phone Policy, Acceptable Use Policy.
- Implementing the Fundamental British Values.
- To ensure allegations regarding adults in the setting are effectively responded to and referred to the appropriate agency.



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All Child Protection concerns need to be acted on immediately. If you are concerned that a child may be at risk or is actually suffering abuse, you must tell the DSL.

All Adults, including the DSL, have a duty to refer all known or suspected cases of abuse to the relevant agency including MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub), Children and Young Peoples Service (CYPS) – Social Care, or the Police. Where a disclosure is made to a visiting staff member from a different agency, e.g. Early Years Consultants, Health Visitors, it is the responsibility of that agency staff to formally report the referral to the Setting's DSL in the first instance and to follow their organisations procedures. Any records made should be kept securely on the Child's Protection file.

Recognising concerns, signs and indicators of abuse

Safeguarding is not just about protecting children from deliberate harm. For our setting it includes such things as child safety, bullying, racist abuse and harassment, visits, intimate care and internet safety etc. However, it must be acknowledged that technology itself will not present the greatest risk, but the behaviours of individuals using such equipment will. The witnessing of abuse can have a damaging effect on those who are party to it, as well as the child/adult subjected to the actual abuse, and in itself, will have a significant impact on the health and emotional well-being of the child.

The table below outlines the four main categories of abuse as defined by the Department of Health 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' document 2010. Adults should be aware that that the possible indicators are not definitive list although children's poor behaviour maybe a sign that they are suffering harm or that they have been traumatised by abuse, some children may present these behaviours for reasons other than abuse. However, it is important to know the indicators of abuse and to be alert to the need to consult further.

Neglect-The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairments of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

provide food, clothing and shelter;

protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;

ensure adequate supervision;

ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

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Possible indicators of Neglect:

Obvious signs of lack of care including:

Problems with personal hygiene, constant hunger, inadequate clothing, emaciation, lateness or non-attendance at the setting, poor relationship with peers, untreated medical problems, compulsive stealing and scavenging, rocking, hair twisting, thumb sucking, running away, low self-esteem etc.

Physical Abuse

May involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces illness in a child.

Possible Indicators - Physical signs that do not tally with the given account of occurrence conflicting or unrealistic explanations of cause repeated injuries delay in reporting or seeking medical advice.

Sexual Abuse

Forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, penetrative or non-penetrative acts and also includes involving children in watching pornographic material or watching sexual acts.

Possible indicators of Sexual Abuse Sudden changes in behaviour, displays of affection which are sexual and age inappropriate, tendency to cling or need constant reassurance,

Tendency to cry easily, regression to younger behaviour – e.g. thumb sucking, acting like a baby, unexplained gifts or money, depression and withdrawal, wetting/soiling day or night, fear of undressing for PE etc.

Emotional Abuse

The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person.



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Possible Indicators of Emotional Abuse - Rejection, isolation, child being blamed for actions of adults, child being used as carer for younger siblings, affection and basic emotional care giving/warmth, persistently absent or withheld.

Children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities

All children have the right to be safe, yet research shows that disabled children are three times more likely to be abused. A number of factors have been identified as to reasons why these children are more at risk (see bullet points) and as a setting we are aware of these and endeavour to protect all our children.

- a general reluctance of people to believe that disabled children are abused
- limited opportunities to seek help from someone else
- a skills gap between disability and child protection workers
- inadequate teaching about personal safety skills e.g. NSPCC pants campaign
- issues relating to the child's specific disability or special educational need, e.g. difficulties in communicating or an inability to understand what is happening

Prevent

The Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015

The Act places a Prevent duty on settings to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.

Settings subject to the Prevent Duty will be expected to demonstrate activity in the following areas

- Assessing the risk of children being drawn into terrorism
- Demonstrate that they are protecting children and young people from being drawn into terrorism by having robust safeguarding policies.
- Ensure that their safeguarding arrangements take into account the policies and procedures of the Devon Children and Families Partnership.
- Make sure that staff have training that gives them the knowledge and confidence to identify children and families at risk of being drawn into terrorism, and to challenge extremist ideas which can be used to legitimise terrorism



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- Expected to ensure children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in the setting

What to do if you are concerned:

If a child makes a disclosure or allegation of abuse against an adult or other child or young person, it is important that you:

- Stay calm and listen carefully.
- Reassure them that they have done the right thing in telling you.
- Do not investigate or ask leading questions. Ask
- Let them know that you will need to tell someone else.
- Do not promise to keep what they have told you a secret.
- Inform your Safeguarding Designated Officer as soon as possible.
- Make a written record of the allegation, disclosure or incident which you must sign, date and record your position using the setting safeguarding record log forms.

If you are concerned that a member of staff or adult in a position of trust poses a danger to a child or young person or that they might be abusing a child or young person you should report your concerns to the DSL. Where those concerns relate to the DSL however, this should be reported to MASH.

Whistleblowing

We recognise that children cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where staff fail to do so. All staff should be aware of their duty to raise concerns about the attitude or actions of colleagues via our whistleblowing and complaints policies and appropriate advice will be sought from the LADO or Safeguarding Team where necessary.

Managing Allegations

We are aware of the possibility of allegations being made against members of staff or volunteers that are working or may come into contact with children and young people whilst in our setting. Allegations will usually be that some kind of abuse has taken place. This could include inappropriate behaviour displayed by members of staff or other persons working with the children such as inappropriate sexual comments,



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excessive one to one attention beyond the requirements their role and responsibilities, inappropriate sharing or images. They can be made by children and young people or other concerned adults. Allegations are made for a variety of reasons:

- Abuse has actually taken place.
- Something has happened to the child that reminds them of a past event – the child is unable to recognize that the situation and people are different; Children can misinterpret your language or your actions.
- Some children recognise that allegations can be powerful and if they are angry with you about something, they can make an allegation as a way of hitting out.
- An allegation can be a way of seeking attention.

If an allegation is made against an adult in a position of trust whether they be members of staff or volunteers this should be brought to the immediate attention of the DSL. In the case of the allegation being made against the DSL this will be brought to the immediate attention of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) the nature of the allegations made against the adult, in order for the appropriate action to be taken. This may constitute an initial evaluation meeting or strategy discussion depending on the allegation being made. The proprietor will need to:

- Refer to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) immediately and follow up in writing within 48 hours. Consider safeguarding arrangements of the child or young person to ensure they are away from the alleged abuser.
- Contact the parents or carers of the child/young person if advised to do so by the LADO.
- Consider the rights of the staff member for a fair and equal process of investigation.
- Advise Ofsted of allegation within 14 days of the allegation
- Ensure that the appropriate disciplinary procedures are followed including whether suspending a member of staff from work until the outcome of any investigation if this is deemed necessary.
- Act on any decision made in any strategy meeting.
- Advise the Disclosure and Barring Service where a member of staff has been removed, dismissed or would have been removed had they a result of the allegations being founded. A copy of “What to do if you are worried a Child is being Abused”



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booklet is kept with this policy. This sets out the guidelines on dealing with incidents, disclosures and the procedures that must be followed.

Confidentiality

- We recognise that all matters relating to child protection are confidential.
- The DSL will disclose personal information about a child or young person to other members of staff on a need to know basis only.
- However, all staff must be aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children.
- All staff must be aware that they cannot promise a child to keep secrets which might compromise the child's safety or well-being or that of another.
- We will always undertake to share our concerns with parents and guardians and their consent is sought in accordance with Early help and MASH procedures unless doing so would increase the risk of harm to the child. If in doubt regarding sharing information with parents and guardians, we will consult with the MASH consultation team.

Training

All members of staff and volunteers will have access to safeguarding training at least every three years in line with WSCC guidelines. We will also, as part of our induction, issue information in relation to our Safeguarding policy and any policy related to safeguarding and promoting our children/young people's welfare to all newly appointed staff and volunteers. There will also regular safeguarding updates at the beginning of any series of sessions, e.g. Holiday Camps.

Our DSL's will undertake further safeguarding training. This will be undertaken at least every three years which updates their awareness and understanding of the impact of the wide agenda of safeguarding issues. This will support both the DSL and deputy DSL to be able to better undertake their role and support the setting in ensuring our safeguarding arrangements are robust and achieving better outcomes for the children in our setting. This includes taking part in multi-agency training in addition to safeguarding training.

They will also be advised to undertake additional training to support their employers' role in Handling Allegations against adults who work with children and young people, including our staff and volunteers.



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Our Safeguarding policy is reviewed annually, in order to keep it updated in line with local and national guidance/legislation.

We will include our Safeguarding Policy in our setting's website. We are also able to arrange for our policy to be made available to parents whose first language is not English, on request.

Mobile Phones and Cameras

Bluebell Bushcraft has policies and procedures in place with regard to the use of mobile phones and cameras in the setting and on visits etc. Due to the nature of the setting, mobile phone access is imperative for all adults, to ensure speedy responses to emergencies, as detailed in our emergency policy. Phones will not be used in any way that may contravene the safeguarding policy as detailed above. Phones and cameras may be used to record observations and take photos, only when express permission is given by the parent/guardian.

Related Topics

'safeguarding covers more than the contribution made to child protection in relation to individual children. It also encompasses issues such as child health and safety, bullying and a range of other issues, for example, arrangements for meeting the medical needs of children, providing first aid, setting security, drugs and substance misuse, etc.

This policy will cross reference to related topics and other protocol:

Behaviour

All attendees, whether staff, children, parents or volunteers, have the right to be treated with respect, with no discrimination based on race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or difference of ability, physical or neurological.

Bluebell Bushcraft expects high standards of behaviour in its setting, role modelled by its staff. All children attending the setting will abide by these standards in order to keep themselves and their peers safe and happy.

Bluebell Bushcraft employs a relational approach to behaviour management, understanding that behaviours can be indicators of wider issues, as noted above in the safeguarding policy.

Bullying is not tolerated.



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Bullying can be defined as “one or more persons causing repeated intimidation or distress to an individual or group, over a period of time, or in asserting power or control over them.

Incidents of alleged bullying will be recorded and kept in line with GDPR guidelines, and reported to the relevant parents as soon as is deemed appropriate by the staff dealing with them.

Approved (Proprietor signature)

Matt Harder

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