

8. Child Protection Policy

Statement of Intent

Coaley Village Playgroup intend to provide children a positive experience of play and interaction with other children in a safe and stimulating environment. We will work with parents and the community to ensure the safety of children and give them the very best start to life.

We will ensure all equipment and the building and play area used by the children attending the group are maintained well and that all health and safety procedures and required insurance's are in place. Correct ratios will kept at all times and will be exceeded during outings. Please see separate Health & Safety Policy.

Please note that the Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) is now Gloucestershire's Safeguarding Children Board (GSCB) plus the Child Protection Unit (CPU) is now Safeguarding Children Service (SCS). Social Services and Education Department has combined and is now known as the Children and Young Peoples Directorate (CYPD)

Aims:

- We will establish and maintain an environment where children feel safe, secure, are encouraged to talk, and are listened to.
- We will support pupils who have been abused in accordance with his/her agreed child protection plan
- Our named person who co-ordinates child protection issues is Krisztina Wiltshire. We will ensure that the designated person will receive appropriate training and support in this role.
- Everyone associated with our group will be kept informed as to who that designated person is at that time. All parents will have the opportunity to read policies held at playgroup, or access them from our website.
- Each member of staff will have a copy of this policy to ensure they know their rights and responsibility in this area.
- Every member of staff will receive training in identifying signs and symptoms of child abuse, through accredited Child Protection Courses. Such concerns could be about unjustifiably explained physical injuries either serious or moderate but repetitive. They could also be a result of concerns about a child's emotional state due to something that has happened whilst at our group or elsewhere.
- Any concerns are to passed immediately to the designated named person.
- The Local Authority's Designated Officer (LADO) will be contacted for advice in the first instance. **LADO 01452 42 6994 or 01452 58 3638**. The LADO will advice on how to proceed, whether the matter can be dealt with within the organisations own structures (disciplinary/supervisory) or whether a multi-agency approach is required (strategy discussions).
- We will follow the procedures set out by the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board (GSCB). Please see flow chart for procedure.
- All staff and those helping regularly once a week or more will undertake Police and Health checks. Students are exempt from this if they are still attending school; in this case they will never be left unsupervised. If present for a number of weeks all other students will have the relevant checks carried out.

- Anyone that has not been Police checked will not be left unsupervised with the children.
- All visitors to Playgroup will sign in the visitor's book and identification will be asked for.
- Our curriculum will introduce key elements of child protection so those children can develop an understanding of why and how to keep safe.
- All suspicions and investigations are kept confidential and shared only with those who need to know.
- Written records of concerns about children (even where there is no need to refer the matter immediately) will be kept securely, separate from the main pupil file, and in locked locations.
- Safe recruitment practices are always followed. See separate Recruitment Policy.
- We will notify the relevant social worker if there is an unexplained absence of more than two days of a pupil who has a Child Protection Plan.
- This policy will be reviewed at regular intervals to ensure it is in line with current standards and is effective.
- All staff will have access to the GSCB Safeguarding Children Handbook.

If allegations are made against a member of staff

- In the event that a member of staff is being accused by parents/guardians that she/he has practised either intimidation, emotional or physical abuse of any kind against their child she/he may be temporarily suspended from working with children. An investigation will take place.
- Should the person be cleared of such allegations made against her/him that she/he will be able to return to work.
- In the event that such allegations are proved to be correct, the member of staff will be asked to resign.
- If an allegation is being made about a member of staff please contact the Chair, Nikki Barnett(Tel: 01453 890424)
- The Local Authority's Designated Officer (LADO) will be contacted for advice in the first instance. **LADO 01452 42 6994 or 01452 58 3638.**
- The designated person will follow the Allegations Management procedure as set out by the GSCB.
- A nominated person has been put in post to support staff accused of child abuse in the Child Protection Unit in Gloucester.
- For more information see the GSCB website: www.gscb.org.uk
- Playgroup recognises that domestic abuse harms children. If you are concerned that a child you know is being exposed to domestic abuse (domestic violence) Contact GDVSAP, telephone the confidential 24 hr help line 01452 500115 or go to www.gdvsap.org.uk.
- In the case of domestic abuse, the designated person will follow GSCB procedures and log a child welfare concern.
- Children or adults do not have access to the internet on the premises and children will not be named on our website. Parent's are asked to sign a permission form prior to photo's being posted on to our website.