

Voyage @ Flash Ley

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

Voyage @ Flash Ley is committed to building a 'culture of safety' in which children aged 0 -11 years that access our care provision, are protected from abuse, harm and radicalisation. Voyage staff will respond promptly and appropriately to all incidents of concern that may occur. All Voyage staff members are in receipt of the 'Safeguarding Children' leaflet, which is a quick reference in order to ensure that they understand the child protection procedure. The child protection procedures within Voyage comply with all relevant legislation and with guidance issued by Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board.

Mrs Becky Kenney, the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (Level 4) for Flash Ley School and Manager of Voyage Extended Services, co-ordinates child protection issues and liaises with external agencies. All staff have accessed Level 1 Safeguarding, Kayleigh Whitehouse has accessed Safeguarding Level 4 training, and Sophie Davies and Chelsea Reece have accessed Safeguarding Level 2 training.

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 them from harm.

- **Emotional abuse** is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child so as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development.
- **Physical abuse** can involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm 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.
- **Neglect** is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and emotional needs.

SIGNS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT MAY INCLUDE:

- Significant changes in a child's behaviour
- Deterioration in a child's general well-being
- Unexplained bruising or marks
- Comments made by a child which can cause for concern
- Reasons to suspect neglect or abuse outside the setting

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- Inappropriate behaviour displayed by other members of staff, or any other person

IF ABUSE IS SUSPECTED OR DISCLOSED A STAFF MEMBER WILL:

- Reassure the child that they were not to blame and were right to speak out
- Listen to the child but not question them
- Give reassurance that the staff member will take action
- Ask non-leading questions (TED: Tell me more... Explain that to me.... Describe to me)
- Record the incident as soon as possible on a yellow logging a concern form

LOGGING AN INCIDENT

All information about the suspected abuse or disclosure will be recorded on a yellow form and should include:

- Date of the disclosure or of the incident causing concern
- Name and class of the child involved
- A factual report of what happened. If recording a disclosure, the child's own words must be used
- Name, signature and job title of the person making the record

The record will be given to the Designated Child Protection Lead / Deputy who will decide if a referral is to be made.

SAFER RECRUITMENT

Voyage staff members are recruited in line with Safer Recruiting procedures. Interview and selection processes are followed in order to ensure the children within Voyage are safe. All staff members are required to disclose if they have a partner who is disqualified from caring for children.

All positions are eligible for a DBS Disclosure. Serious consideration is given if applicants display areas for potential concern.

IF AN ALLEGATION OF CHILD ABUSE IS MADE AGAINST A STAFF MEMBER:

- The allegation will be recorded on a pink incident form. Any witnesses to the incident should sign and date the entry to confirm it

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- The allegations must be reported to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and to Ofsted. The LADO will advise if any other agencies need to be informed and Voyage will act upon their advice
- Following advice from the LADO, it may be necessary to suspend the member of staff pending full investigation of the allegation

PROMOTING AWARENESS AMONGST STAFF

Voyage promotes awareness of child abuse and the risk of radicalisation through its staff training and through:

- Safer recruitment process
- Designated CPO has relevant experience and training in safeguarding and the Prevent Duty
- All staff members receive regular basic safeguarding training
- Safeguarding is a permanent agenda item at all staff meetings
- Inclusion in the induction process for all staff and volunteers
- All staff are given a copy of the Safeguarding policy and Safeguarding children leaflet
- Staff have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into radicalisation or terrorism by accessing e-learning via Channel General Awareness
- All staff are vigilant to signs of child abuse or neglect and aware of their statutory requirements with regard to the disclosure or discovery of child abuse

PEER-ON-PEER ABUSE

Children are vulnerable to abuse from their peers. This form of abuse is taken seriously by staff. Staff members are also aware of the potential uses of IT for bullying and abusive behaviour towards peers. The presence of one, or more, of the following would trigger a cause for concern about the possibility of peer-on-peer abuse:

- Sexual activity (in primary school aged children) of any kind, including sexting.
- One child significantly more dominant/older
- One child significantly more vulnerable: disability, size, age, strength, confidence
- Use of threats, bribes, coercion to ensure compliance or secrecy

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PREVENT DUTY

The **Counter Terrorism and Security Act** places a legal duty on Early Years providers to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. The **Prevent** strategy aims to reduce the threat to the UK by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

The Prevent Duty is seen as part of our work to safeguard all children in our care. We would raise concerns if we are aware of an individual in relation to radicalisation.

SIGNS MIGHT INCLUDE:

- Changes in behaviour, e.g. acting out violent role-play, use of racist language, becoming withdrawn or aggressive.
- Claiming that terrorist attacks and violence are justified
- Viewing or possessing violent extremist material online

Staff would check if there any reasons for the change in behaviour, any other explanations. This information would be recorded and discussed with the Safeguarding Lead, and a shared decision would be made about whether to refer to the Prevent Team.

BRITISH VALUES

The duty to promote fundamental **British Values** in the Early Years includes:

- Mutual respect and tolerance – *treat others as you wish to be treated*
- Individual Liberty – *freedom for all*
- Rule of Law – *understanding rules matter*
- Democracy – *making decisions together*

USE OF MOBILE PHONES AND CAMERAS

- Photographs will only be taken of children with their parent's permission
- Only the Voyage or main school camera will be used to take photographs
- Parents are informed that Voyage is a 'Mobile Free Zone'
- Staff members have restricted use of their personal mobile phones, during breaks only and within the staff rest area
- Staff will ensure their mobile phones are stored in a secure area outside of the Voyage play areas
- Any child in possession of a mobile phone will be required to hand it to staff, who will store it in a designated drawer in the Voyage office. A signature is required for this procedure
- Staff will complete the 'Acceptance of mobile phone' form

For more details see the Voyage 'Mobile Phone' Policy

Voyage @ Flash Ley

	Extended Services Manager	
	Deputy Manager	
	Chair of Governors	

Contact Numbers

When reporting serious accidents or injuries contact:

Ofsted: 0300123 1231

First Response/ Staffordshire Children's Advice and Support service : 0300 111 8007

Email: firstr@staffordshire.gov.uk

RIDDOR: 0345 300 9923 – fatal/specified and major incidents only by telephone.

Out of Hours: 0845 6042 886 or Police MASH 101 or

Email: eds.team.manager@staffordshire.gov.uk

LADO: Julie Astall

Guidance Website: www.staffsscb.org.uk

Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board: 277151

Staffordshire Police Prevent: 01785 238239 or 233109 or

Email: prevent@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk

Police: 999 / PC Lovatt - 07951091865

NSPCC: 0808 800 500