**Safeguarding Children**

# 1.2 Safeguarding Children and Child Protection

# Policy statement for St Joseph’s Pre-school

The purpose of St Joseph’s Pre-school’s safeguarding and child protection policy is to provide a secure framework for the workforce in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of those children/young people who attend our setting. The policy aims to ensure that:

* all our children are safe and protected from harm;
* other elements of provision and policies are in place to enable children to feel safe and adopt safe practices; and
* staff, children, committee, 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 children.

As an early years provider, we have a duty under section 40 of the Childcare Act 2006 to comply with the welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)[[1]](#footnote-1).

**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.’*  EYFS

Safeguarding in St Joseph’s Pre-school is considered everyone’s responsibility and our setting aims to create the safest environment within which every child has the opportunity to achieve their full potential. St Joseph’s Pre-school recognises the contribution it can make in ensuring that all children registered or who use our setting feel that they will be listened to and appropriate action taken. We will do this by working in partnership with other agencies and 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 experiences that will encourage our children 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” 2018
* “What to do if you are worried a Child is being Abused” 2015
* “Keeping Children Safe in Education” 2018
* Childcare Act 2016
* “The Prevent Duty” 2016 (Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015)
* “Information Sharing; Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers” 2018

**Responsibilities and expectations**

The management committee 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 Committee 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 Lead Practitioner) or volunteers;
* the safe and appropriate use of cameras, mobile devices (e.g. smart watches) phones, technology and on-line equipment within the setting[[2]](#footnote-2);
* 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 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.
	+ The **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)** is **Claire Ajayi.** If they are not available then contact
	+ The **Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead** **(DDSL) Natalie Powers.**
* Identify the Named Member of the Committee for Safeguarding
	+ **Safeguarding Committee Named Lead is the Chair person.**
* Our procedures will be annually reviewed and up-dated.
* Ensure that either the DSL or the DDSL is always available, ie. at the setting, to discuss safeguarding concerns.

The responsibilities for the DSL are: -

* to ensure that all safeguarding issues raised in setting are effectively responded to, recorded and referred to the appropriate agency. Child Protection records will be kept until the child is aged 21years;
* 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;
* 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 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 polices and procedures.
* Interpreting and implementing the Fundamental British Values.

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. Do not assume that someone else is taking action and sharing information that might safeguard a child.. **All Adults, including the DSL, have a duty to refer all known or suspected cases of abuse to the relevant agency including the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children’s Board, Gloucestershire Early Years service – Social Care, or the Police.** Where a disclosure is made to a visiting staff member from a different agency, eg. Early Years Consultants, Health Visitors, it is the responsibility of that agency staff to formally report the referral to St Joseph’s Pre-school’s DSL in the first instance and to follow their organisation’s procedures. Any records made should be kept securely on the Child’s Protection file. Parents should be aware and can access this record unless to do so would increase the risk to the child or impede a potential investigation.

Staff working with children at St Joseph’s Pre-school are advised to maintain an attitude of **it could happen here** where safeguarding is concerned. When concerned about the welfare of a child staff should always act in the **best** **interests** of the child.

Knowing what to look for is vital to the early identification of abuse and neglect. If staff are unsure, they should always speak to the DSL or DDSL.

**Recognising concerns, signs and indicators of abuse**

Safeguarding is not just about protecting children from deliberate harm. For St Joseph’s Pre-school this 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 2018. Staff should be aware that the possible indicators are not definitive and that 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.**

| **Type of Abuse**  | **Possible Indicators**  |
| --- | --- |
| **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.  | 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.  |
| **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  | 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.  | 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. |
| **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.  | 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.  |

**E-Safety**

Children and young people can be exploited and suffer bullying through their use of modern technology such as the internet, mobile devices, phones and social networking sites. In order to minimize the risks to our children and young people St Joseph’s Pre-school will ensure that we have in place appropriate measures such as security filtering, and an acceptable use policy linked to our E-Safety policy[[3]](#footnote-3). We will ensure that staff are aware of how not to compromise their position of trust in or outside of the setting and are aware of the dangers associated with social networking sites[[4]](#footnote-4). Our E-safety policy will clearly state that mobile phone, camera or electronic communications with a child or family at our setting is not acceptable other than for approved setting business. Where it is suspected that a child is at risk from internet abuse or cyber bullying we will report our concerns to the appropriate agency.

**Under-age Marriage**

In England, a young person cannot legally marry until they are 16 years old (without the consent of their parents or carers) nor have sexual relationships.

**Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**

FGM is child abuse and a form of violence against women and girls, and therefore should be dealt with as part of existing child safeguarding/protection structures, policies and procedures. FGM is illegal in the UK. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, the practice is illegal under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003.

Other than in the excepted circumstances, it is an offence for **any person (regardless of their nationality or residence status)** to:

* perform FGM in England, Wales or Northern Ireland (section 1 of the Act);
* assist a girl to carry out FGM on herself in England, Wales or Northern Ireland (section 2 of the Act); and
* Assist (from England, Wales or Northern Ireland) a non-UK person to carry out FGM outside the UK on a **UK national or permanent UK resident** (section 3 of the Act).

All practitioner staff have undertaken training with regards to FGM and this is updated when advised.

**Ritualistic Abuse** Some faiths believe that spirits and demons can possess people (including children). What should never be considered is the use of any physical or psychological violence to get rid of the possessing spirit. This is abusive and will result in the criminal conviction of those using this form of abuse even if the intention is to help the child.

**Safeguarding Disabled Children**

Disabled children have exactly the same human rights to be safe from abuse and neglect, to be protected from harm and achieve Every Child Matters outcomes as non-disabled children. Disabled children do however require additional action. This is because they experience greater risks and *‘created vulnerability’* as a result of negative attitudes about disabled children and unequal access to services and resources, are prone to isolation and because they may have additional needs relating to physical, sensory, cognitive and/ or communication impairment (*Safeguarding Children, DCSF, July 2009)*. St Joseph’s Pre-school will ensure that our disabled children are listened to and responded to appropriately where they have concerns regarding abuse. In order to do this, we will ensure that our staff and volunteers receive the relevant training to raise awareness and have access to specialist staff in the event they have concerns regarding abuse of a child.

**Children Missing in Education**

There are many reasons why we want young children to have regular attendance at St Joseph’s Pre-school. As well as supporting their learning and development, we want to try to make sure that children are kept safe, their wellbeing is promoted and they do not miss out on their entitlements and opportunities. In a small minority of cases, good attendance practice may also lead to the early identification of more serious concerns for a child or family and may have a vital part to play in keeping a child or other family members safe from harm.

At St Joseph’s Pre-school, we have procedures for recording and following up any unexplained non-attendance[[5]](#footnote-5) and know how to respond to different problems and where to access advice, support or whom to alert if concerns arise.

**Prevent Duty**

The Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015 (The Act)

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 Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board (GSCB).
* Make sure that staff have training that gives them the knowledge and confidence to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism, and to challenge extremist ideas which can be used to legitimise terrorism
* 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;
* 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 DSL/DDSL as soon as possible; and
* 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/DDSL. Where those concerns relate to the DSL, however, this should be reported to the Chair of the Committeeusing St Joseph’s Pre-school’s Whistle blowing policy[[6]](#footnote-6). See also the flowchart outlining ‘Actions where there are concerns about a child’ courtesy of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018, which can be found on page 12.

**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 and appropriate advice will be sought from GSCB 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 at St Joseph’s Pre-school. 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, excessive one to one attention beyond the requirements their role and responsibilities, inappropriate sharing of 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 recognise 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; and
* 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 who will advise the Chair of the Committee.In the case of the allegation being made against the DSL this will be brought to the immediate attention of the Chair of the Committee. The DSL/Chair of the Committee will need to discuss with the Local Authority Designated Lead (LADO)[[7]](#footnote-7) 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 Chair of the Committee will need to:

* refer to the 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, particularly if the allegations are deemed ‘unfounded’;
* 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; and
* advise the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) where a member of staff has been disciplined or dismissed as a result of the allegations being founded[[8]](#footnote-8).

A copy of “**What to do if you’re worried a child is being abused, Advice for Practitioners”** booklet is kept in the safeguarding documents file. This sets out the guidelines on dealing with incidents, disclosures and the procedures that must be followed.

If there is concern about the work/attitude/behavior of another professional working for another agency with regards to safeguarding, the St Joseph’s Pre-school will follow the guidance given by GSCB in their ‘Escalation of professional Concerns guidance – June 2018’ (see Appendix 1).

**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 intention to refer a child to GSCB with their parents/carers consent unless to do so could put the child at greater risk of harm, or impede a criminal investigation. If in doubt, we will consult with the GSCB.
* We will make no names consultations with the GSCB to discuss concerns we may have, but we understand that if they then ask for a name we will disclose those details and it will become an enquiry.

*General Data Protection Regulations 2018 (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)*

The GDPR and DPA do not prevent, or limit the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe. Fears about sharing information **must not** be allowed to stand in the way of the need to promote welfare and protect the safety of children.

Where a child leave the Pre-school, the DSL should ensure their child protection file is transferred to the new setting/school as soon as possible, ensuring secure transit, and confirmation of receipt should be obtained.

**Safer Recruitment and Selection**

It is a requirement for all agencies to ensure that all staff recruited to work with children and young people are properly selected and checked. At St Joseph’s Pre-school we will ensure that we have a member on every recruitment panel who has received the appropriate recruitment and selection training. That all of our staff are appropriately qualified and have the relevant employment history and checks to ensure they are safe to work with children. References will be sought from both the most recent employer and the most recent educational setting (if applicable). Internal references will only be acceptable from someone with authority, not a work colleague. We will endeavour to check that any electronic references received are from a legitimate source, by requesting it via post too. We recommend that staff sign up to the DBS update service.

**Training**

The DSL and DDSL receive safeguarding training every 2 years. The remaining staff members and volunteers will have access to safeguarding training at least every three years in line with GSCB as well as regular safeguarding updates from our DSL. We will also, as part of our induction, issue information in relation to this Safeguarding policy and any policy related to safeguarding and promoting our children/young people’s welfare to all newly appointed staff and volunteers.

Our DSL will undertake regular updates on safeguarding (at least annually) and further safeguarding training including Group 3 GSCB multi-agency Safeguarding course or Group 3 Refresher Courses. The training 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 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.

Our Committee will have access to safeguarding training and our Named member of the Committee for Safeguarding will also undertake additional safeguarding awareness training at least every three years. 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.

Our safeguarding arrangements are reported on an annual basis to our Management Committee and our Safeguarding policy is reviewed annually, in order to keep it updated in line with local and national guidance/legislation.

We include our Safeguarding Policy in St Joseph’s Pre-school’s enrolment pack, and a copy of this policy is on the parents’ notice board and on the Pre-school’s page of St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School’s website[[9]](#footnote-9). In addition, every August parents of children who are due to attend the setting are sent an electronic copy prior to the start of the Autumn term. We are also able to arrange for our policy to be made available to parents whose first language is not English, on request.

**Mobile Devices (ie. Smart watches and tablets), Phones and Cameras**

St Joseph’s Pre-school has policies and procedures in place with regards to the use of mobile devices, phones and cameras in the setting and on visits etc.[[10]](#footnote-10)

**Useful Contacts**:

Gloucestershire Safeguarding Childrens Board [www.gscb.org.uk](http://www.gscb.org.uk)

Gloucestershire Early Years and Childcare Service [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/early-years-service](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/early-years-service)

Children’s social care team (Glos): 01452 426565

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command [www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/](http://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/)

NSPCC <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/safeguarding/> or helpline: 0800 028 0285 (8am to 8pm Monday to Friday), email: help@nspcc.org.uk

**Early Help**

Early help is about children, young people and families getting the right help at the right time, before issues get worse, ie. ‘providing support as soon as a problem emerges at any point in a child’s life’ (chapter 1 Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018).

Any child may benefit from Early Help, but all staff should be particularly alert to the potential need for Early Help for a child who:

* is disabled and has specific additional needs;
* has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory Education, Health and Care Plan);
* is a young carer;
* is showing signs of being drawn into anti-social or criminal behavior, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups;
* is frequently missing/goes missing from care or from home;
* is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking or exploitation;
* is at risk of being radicalized or exploited;
* is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as drug and alcohol misuse, adult mental health issues and domestic abuse;
* is misusing drugs or alcohol themselves;
* has returned home to their family from care; or
* is a privately fostered child.

All staff should be aware of indicators of abuse and neglect so that they are able to identify cases of children who may be in need of help or protection.

For more information with regards to Early Help see:

[www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/children-young-people-and-families/early-help-for-children-young-people-and-families](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/children-young-people-and-families/early-help-for-children-young-people-and-families)

Gloucestershire Social Services – Children and Families helpdesk

* [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/children](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/children)
* Phone: 01452 426565
* Email: childrenshelpdesk@gloucestershire.gov.uk

**Police Central Referral Unit**: 0845 605 116

**Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board**

* Local Authority Designated Lead (LADO): Nigel Hatton, 01452 426994
* Children’s practitioners advice line – to speak to a qualified social worker: 01452 426565 (option 3)
* When a child is at significant risk contact Front Door on 01452 426565 (option 1)

**Legal framework**

* General Data Protection Regulation 2018
* Data Protection Act 2018
* Human Rights Act 1998

### Further guidance

* Information Sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers (July 2018)
* What to do if you’re worried as child is being abused, Advice for Practitioners (DfE March 2015)

| **Version Number** | **Author** | **Purpose of change** | **Date** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1.0 | E Kemp | Reviewed | Mar 2018 |
| 2.0 | K Coupe | Comprehensively reviewed and updated in line with GDPR & DPA 2018, compliance with guidance and legislation and inclusion of version control | 7 Nov 2018 Cttee mtg |
| 3.0 | K Coupe | Comprehensively reviewed and updated in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018 and Ofsted guidance: Inspecting Safeguarding in early years, education and skills settings (Oct 2018) | 27 Feb 2019 Cttee mtg |

**Actions where there are concerns about a child**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Staff have concerns about child and take immediate action. Staff follow their child protection policy and speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) (1) |  | Pre-school action |
|  |  |  |
|  |  | Other agency action |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Referral not required, pre-school takes relevant action, possibly including pastoral support and/or early help (2) and monitors locally |  | Referral (3) made if concerns escalate |  | DSL or staff make referral (3) to children’s social care (and call police if appropriate) |
|  |
| Within 1 working day, social worker makes decision about the type of response that is required |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Child in need of immediate protection: referrer informed | Section 47(4) enquiries appropriate: referrer informed | Section 17 (4) enquiries appropriate: referrer informed |  | No formal assessment required: referrer informed |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Appropriate emergency action taken by social worker, police or NSPCC (5) | Identify child at risk of significant harm (4): possible child protection plan | Identify child in need (4) and identify appropriate support |  | Pre-school considers pastoral support and/or early help assessment (2) accessing universal services and other support |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Staff should do everything they can to support social workers.At all stages, staff should keep the child’s circumstances under review (involving the DSL (or DDSL) as required), and re-refer if appropriate, to ensure the child’s circumstances improve – the child’s best interests must always come first.  |

|  |
| --- |
| (1) In cases which also involve a concern or an allegation of abuse against a staff member. See Part Four of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018.(2) Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges at any point in a child’s life. Where a child would benefit from co-ordinated early help, an early help inter-agency assessment should be arranged. Chapter One of Working Together to Safeguard Children provides detailed guidance on the early help process.(3) Referrals should follow the process set out in the local threshold document and local protocol for assessment. Chapter One of Working Together to Safeguarding Children.(4) Under the Children Act 1989, local authorities are required to provide services for children in need for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting their welfare. Children in need may be assessed under section 17 of the Children Act 1989. Under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989, where a local authority has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, it has a duty to make enquiries to decide whether to take action to safeguard or promote the child’s welfare. Full details in Chapter One of Working Together to Safeguard Children.(5) This could include applying for an Emergency Protection Order (EPO) |

1. Section 3 – safeguarding and welfare requirements in the Statutory Framework for the Early Year Foundation Stage 2017 (updated 2018) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Policy 1.11 Use of mobile phones, digital photography and recording devices [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Policy 1.12 E-Safety [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Policy 1.12.3 Social Networking [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Policy 1.6.1 Child non-attendance [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Policy 1.10.1 Whistleblowing [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Nigel Hatton 01452 426994 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Legal duty to advise DBS. Failure is a criminal offence under section 38 Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. www.st-josephs-nympsfield.com [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Policy 1.11 Use of mobile phones, digital photography and recording device [↑](#footnote-ref-10)