



## 25 Safeguarding Policy

### Policy Statement

Summertime Nursery is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children in our care. Safeguarding children means protecting the health, wellbeing, and human rights of children and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse, and neglect.

- All staff included in ratios are trained to a minimum of **Level 2 PDSCP Safeguarding Children** delivered remotely by the **Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership**. Training is updated every **two years** and booked online via **Dorset Nexus**.
- All staff, students, and volunteers are made aware of our safeguarding policies and procedures, including how and to whom to report concerns.
- Safeguarding information is treated as **highly confidential** and shared on a **need-to-know** basis only.

### Designated Safeguarding Leads:

- **DSL: Natasha King**
- **Deputy DSL: Cathy White**

### Safeguarding Procedures

#### General Practices

- All staff including students and volunteers follow our policies and procedures at all times.
- Personal mobile phones are **not used** in areas where children are present and are kept in the nursery office.
- All staff undergo **Enhanced DBS** and **suitability checks** before employment starts.
- Staff receive **regular supervision**, including safeguarding discussions.
- **Visitor details** are recorded, and visitors are **never left alone** with children.

#### Raising Concerns About a Child

- Staff distinguish between **children at risk** and those in **immediate danger**.
- **Existing injuries or unusual marks** are recorded, discussed with parents, and countersigned.
- Concerns or disclosures are:
  - **Factually recorded**
  - **Signed and dated**
  - **Stored securely**
- Open-ended questions may be used (e.g., “Tell me...”, “Explain...”, “Describe...”), but staff **must not investigate**.
- Parental consent is sought **unless it increases risk of harm**.
- Referrals or advice are made by the **DSL or Deputy DSL** to **Dorset Council Children’s Services**.
- In emergencies, staff **dial 999** immediately.

#### Allegations Against Staff or Volunteers

- Any allegations are reported **immediately** to the **DSL or Deputy DSL**.
- The **Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)** will be contacted.
- **Ofsted** will be notified as required.
- **Suspension** may be considered during the investigation.
- Substantiated allegations may result in:
  - **Dismissal**
  - **Referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)**

#### Hidden Harm & Parental Concerns

- Staff remain alert to issues such as:



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Summertime Nursery & Preschool

Thomas Hardy School

Dorchester DT1 2ET

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- **Domestic abuse**
- **Substance misuse**
- **Radicalisation**
- Any factors impacting a child's wellbeing
- If a parent/carer arrives **under the influence** of drugs or alcohol:
  - An **alternative collector** will be arranged.
  - The incident will be **logged**.
  - Repeated incidents may be referred to **Dorset Council Children's Services**.

## Prevent Duty & British Values

We have due regard to the **Prevent Duty** (Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015) and actively promote:

- **Democracy** – Helping children make decisions together
- **Rule of Law** – Supporting children to understand right from wrong
- **Individual Liberty** – Encouraging independence and self-esteem
- **Mutual Respect & Tolerance** – Promoting respect for others' cultures, religions, and beliefs

## Operation Encompass Safeguarding Statement

Summertime Nursery and Preschool is part of Operation Encompass.

Operation Encompass is a national police and education early intervention safeguarding partnership which supports children who experience Domestic Abuse.

- Children were recognised as victims of domestic abuse in their own right in the 2021 Domestic Abuse Act.
- There is a legislative requirement for police forces to share information with educational settings through Operation Encompass.
- Through Operation Encompass the police will share information with our nursery setting about ALL police attended domestic abuse incidents which involve any of our children who are related to either of the adults involved in the incident.

## Whistleblowing Public interest disclosure –

Summertime's Whistle blowing procedure encourages workers to disclose information through appropriate channels and supports the principles and legislation which protects whistle blowers from any form of victimisation. Whistleblowing applies where a worker is making a disclosure regarding offences about poor or unsafe practice that could cause harm and risk to safety. All staff are made aware of this through the Staff handbook.

## Contact Information:

- **Dorset Council Children's Services Family Support and Advice Line: 01305 228558**
- **Ofsted: 0300 123 1231**
- [Worried about a child - Dorset Council](#)

Cathy White Manager

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