UNITED SYNAGOGUE NURSERIES

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

DECEMBER 2024

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Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

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What to do if you have a concern

Why are you concerned?

- Disclosure
- Child's appearance – may include unexplained marks as well as dress
- Behaviour change
- Witnessed concerning behaviour

Immediately record your concerns

Follow the United Synagogue procedure outlined in the policy:

- Reassure the child
- Clarify concerns if necessary (**TED**: **T**ell, **E**xplain, **D**escribe)
- Use child's own words
- Complete fully the logging of concern form (and body map if required)
- Seek support for yourself if required from DSL

Inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead or refer if appropriate

Designated Safeguarding Lead

- Consider whether the child is at immediate risk of harm meaning an immediate referral must be made e.g. unsafe to go home.
- Access the Local Authority Threshold document and procedures.
- Refer to other agencies as appropriate e.g Children's Social Care, Police, Early Help Notification Form or Request for Support Form. (Complete communicating with external agency form)

If you are unhappy with the response

Staff:

- Seek advice from the Designated Safeguarding Team
- Follow Whistleblowing Procedures – see policies and procedures

Children and Parents/Carers:

- Follow the United Synagogue complaints procedure found in black folder on staffroom table or online in policy folder.

Record decision making and action taken in the child's safeguarding/child protection file

Monitor

Complete the DSL response form / chronology sheet:

- What you are monitoring e.g. behaviour trends, appearance etc.
- How long you will monitor
- Where, how and to whom you will feedback and how you will record

Review and Re-refer (if necessary)

At all stages the child's circumstances will be kept under review

The DSL/Staff will re-refer if required to ensure the child's safety is paramount

1. Introduction

Role	Name	Contact number	Email
Designated Safeguarding Lead - Manager	Rachel Simon	07943 505131 Personal in emergency 07899 391940	Babyish@southhampstead.org
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead - Deputy	Alina Dragomir	07943 505131	Babyish@southhampstead.org
US Nominated Individual	Tamar Berman	07918 286812	tberman@theus.org.uk
US Head of Safeguarding	Claudia Kitsberg	0208 343 8989	CKitsberg@theus.org.uk
Local Authority Children's Services referral number	Camden	020 7974 4556	LADO@camden.gov.uk
LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer)	Jacqueline Fearon	020 7974 4556	LADO@camden.gov.uk
Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership website: https://cscp.org.uk/professionals/managing-allegations-against-staff-and-volunteers-lado			

At BabyiSH Nursery we work with the United Synagogue, children, parents, external agencies and the community to ensure the welfare and safety of children and to give them the very best start in life. Children have the right to be treated with respect, be helped to thrive and to be safe from any abuse in whatever form.

We support the children within our care, protect them from maltreatment and have robust procedures in place to prevent the impairment of children's health and development. At BabyiSH Nursery we strive to protect children from the risk of radicalisation, and we promote acceptance and tolerance of other beliefs and cultures (please refer to our inclusion and equality policy for further information). Safeguarding is a much wider subject than the elements covered within this single policy, therefore this document should be used in conjunction with the Nursery's other policies and procedures.

'Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential.

Children learn best when they are healthy, safe and secure, when their individual needs are met, and when they have positive relationships with the adults caring for them.'
Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage (Department for Education, November 2024)

2. Purpose
This policy is for all leaders, staff, parents / carers, volunteers, and the wider community. It provides a framework for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children who attend BabyiSH Nursery.

3. Ethos

We recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and provide a welcoming, safe and stimulating environment, where all children can enjoy learning and grow in confidence. There are various ways in which we fulfil our safeguarding responsibility, for example through our environment, curriculum, and clear policies and procedures.

We will take all necessary steps to keep our children safe and well, and ensure they are protected from harm. If we have concerns about children's safety or welfare, we will notify agencies with statutory responsibilities without delay. This means Local authority Social Care and, in emergencies, the police.

4. Statutory framework

There is government guidance set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children December 2023 on how agencies must work in partnership to keep children safe. This guidance places a shared and equal duty on three Safeguarding Partners (the Local Authority, Police and Health) to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in their area under multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. At BabyiSH Nursery we work with the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

Early years providers have a duty under section 40 of the Childcare Act 2006 to comply with the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage, under which providers are required to take necessary steps to safeguard and promote the welfare of young children.

This policy takes into account and should be read in conjunction with other statutory and local guidance (this is not an exhaustive):

- Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage (DfE, 2024)
- Working together to safeguard children (DfE, 2023)
- What to do if you're worried a child is being abused (HMG, 2015)
- The Prevent Duty guidance (Home Office, 2023)
- FGM Mandatory Reporting
- Keeping children safe in education (DfE, 2024)
- Children Act (HMG, 1989)
- Children Act (HMG, 2004)
- Children's Social Care Act 2017

This policy also complements our Behaviour Policy, which includes information on positive handling, and our Staff Code of Conduct.

Our Nursery also works in accordance with statutory and local guidance where there are concerns about radicalisation and extremism. In these cases, usual child protection procedures will be followed.

5. Roles and responsibilities

The United Synagogue has oversight of our safeguarding arrangements and ensures that they operate effectively, that there are appropriate policies in place, and that staff receive the right training to keep children safe.

Our Nursery is required to have a designated lead to take lead responsibility for safeguarding children. To ensure there is cover when the Designated Safeguarding Lead is absent, we also have a Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. Their names are on page 2 of this policy.

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for liaison with local statutory children's services agencies, Social Care and other agencies as required. The Designated Safeguarding Lead provides support, advice and guidance to staff on an ongoing basis, and on any specific safeguarding issues as required.

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead attend designated lead training every 2 years and a child protection training course (every 3 years) to enable them to identify, understand and respond appropriately to signs of possible abuse and neglect. They also ensure that everyone in our Nursery (including temporary staff, volunteers, visitors, and contractors) is aware of our child protection procedures and that they are followed at all times.

Everyone At BabyiSH Nursery has the responsibility to provide a safe environment in which our children can learn. Any child may benefit from early help and all staff members are aware of the Local authority procedures and our role in it. They are aware of signs of abuse and neglect so they are able to identify children who may be in need of help or protection.

All staff members are aware of and follow our procedures (as set out in this policy) and are aware of how to make a request for support to Camden if there is a need to do so. If staff have any concerns about a child's welfare, they act on them immediately and speak with the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead – they do not assume that others have taken action.

6. Child Protection Procedures

Our Nursery works with local statutory services to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. This includes providing a co-ordinated offer of early help when additional needs of children are identified and contributing to inter-agency plans which provide additional support, for example Child in Need or Child Protection plans.

All staff members have a duty to identify and respond to suspected / actual abuse or disclosures of abuse. Any member of staff, volunteer or visitor to the Nursery who receives a disclosure or allegation of abuse, or suspects that abuse may have occurred, **must** report it immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or, in their absence, the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead). If, for any reason, the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is not available, this will not delay appropriate action being taken. Safeguarding contact details are displayed in the Nursery to ensure that all staff members have unfettered access to safeguarding support, should it be required.

Where there is risk of immediate harm, the Nursery will telephone Camden MASH and / or the police. Less urgent concerns or requests for support will be sent to the MASH through the online referral process.

Wherever possible, we share any safeguarding concerns, or an intention to request support from children's Social Care for Camden MASH, with parents / carers. However, we will not do so where it is felt that it could place a child at greater risk of harm or impede a criminal investigation. On occasions, it may be necessary to consult with Camden MASH team or Police for advice on when to share information with parents / carers.

Any individual may request support from Children's Social Care, Camden MASH where it is suspected that a child has been harmed, or where there is a risk of harm to a child.

When new staff, volunteers or visitors join our Nursery they are informed of the safeguarding arrangements in place, the name of the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, and how to share concerns with them.

7. Training & Supervision

The Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead undertake DSL training every two years. The Manager and all staff members receive appropriate child protection training at least annually, in line with Camden's Safeguarding Children's Partnership expectations. We ensure all practitioners receive safeguarding training every three (two from September 2025) years, as outlined in Annex C, and are fully supported to implement safeguarding policies and procedures effectively. The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) provides ongoing guidance, ensuring training covers safeguarding concepts, types of abuse, signs of abuse, appropriate responses, and the setting's policies.

In addition, all staff members safeguarding and child protection updates as required, and at least annually, to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively. Records of all child protection training undertaken are kept for all staff.

The manager will ensure that members of staff are provided with appropriate supervision in accordance with the statutory requirements of Early Years Foundation Stage.

BabyiSH Nursery recognises regular, planned and accountable supervision, which is a two-way process, offers support and develops the knowledge, skills and values of an individual, group or team. We see its purpose is to monitor the progress of professional practice and to help staff to improve the quality of the work they do, thus improving outcomes for children as well as achieving agreed objectives. Supervision also provides an opportunity to discuss sensitive issues including the safeguarding of children and any concerns raised about an individual or colleague's practice – See Full Policy – "POLICY Supervision 12.24".

All staff and volunteers will receive regular and planned supervision sessions. Uninterrupted time will be set aside to ensure any supervision sessions are effective for both practitioner and management. Staff can request a supervision at any time, if concerns arise then they should refer to the Whistleblowing Policy.

8. Professional confidentiality

Confidentiality is an issue which needs to be fully understood by all those working with children, particularly in the context of child protection. A member of staff will never guarantee confidentiality to anyone about a safeguarding concern (including children and parents / carers) or promise to keep a secret.

Information on individual child protection cases may be shared by the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead with other relevant staff members. This will be on a 'need to know' basis only and where it is in the child's best interests to do so.

9. Records and information sharing

Well-kept records are essential for robust child protection practice. Our Nursery is clear about the need to record any concern held about a child or children within our Nursery and when these records should be shared with other agencies.

Where there are concerns about the safety of a child, the sharing of information in a timely and effective manner between organisations can reduce the risk of harm. Whilst the Data Protection Act 2018 places duties on organisations and individuals to process personal information fairly and lawfully, it is not a barrier to sharing information, where the failure to do so would result in a child or vulnerable adult being placed at risk of harm.

Any member of staff receiving a disclosure of abuse or noticing signs or indicators of abuse, will record it as soon as possible, using the 'logging of concern form' which can be found in black file, 3rd cupboard noting what was said or seen (if appropriate, using a body map to record and physical injury which can be found in black file, 3rd cupboard, giving the date, time, and location. All records will be dated and signed and will include the action taken. All logging of concern forms are shared with the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead who will decide on appropriate action and record this using the 'DSL response forms', 'Communicating with external agency form' and completing a 'Chronology' at the front of the child's individual child protection folder.

Any records relating to child protection are kept on an individual child protection file for that child (which is separate to any other child file). All child protection records are stored securely and confidentially until the child transfers to another educational setting and are then archived until the child's 25th birthday or up to 75 years for children who were looked after by the local authority.

Where a child transfers from our Nursery to another, their child protection records will be forwarded to the new nursery. These will be marked 'Confidential' and for the attention of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or in the case of a school, the Designated Safeguarding Lead) at the new nursery, with a return address on the envelope so it can be returned to us if it goes astray. We will obtain evidence that the paperwork has been received by the new nursery, and

then destroy any copies held in our Nursery. Where appropriate, the Designated Safeguarding Lead may also contact the new nursery / establishment in advance of the child's move there, to enable planning so appropriate support is in place when the child arrives.

Where a child joins our Nursery, we will request child protection records from the previous nurseries / settings (if applicable, and if none are received). This will be recorded using the transfer of Child Protection record form.

10. Multi-agency working

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will ensure our Nursery is represented at a Child Protection Conference or other safeguarding meetings for children registered with us, or previously known to us. We may be required to submit a report for these meetings and, where possible and appropriate, we will share this in advance with parents and / or carers. The member of staff attending a meeting will be fully briefed on any issues or concerns we have and be prepared to contribute to the discussions at the conference.

If BabyiSH Nursery is part of a multi-agency group for the safeguarding arrangements for a child, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will ensure we are represented at meetings and that we provide appropriate information and contribute to any plan. Any concerns about the plan and / or a child's welfare will be discussed and recorded at these meetings, unless to do so would place the child at further risk of significant harm.

11. Allegations about members of staff / volunteers working at BabyiSH Nursery

All staff members and volunteers are made aware of the boundaries of appropriate behaviour and conduct. These matters form part of induction and are outlined in our Staff Code of Conduct – See Full Policy – "POLICY Code of Conduct 12.24".

Any concerns about the conduct of an adult working with children in our Nursery should be referred to the Manager (or the Deputy in their absence). Where the concern is about the Manager, it should be reported direct to Claudia Kitsberg at the United Synagogue or the LADO – See Full Policy – "Managing Allegations and Low Level concerns policy 12.24".

BabyiSH Nursery works in accordance with statutory guidance and United Synagogue procedures in relation to allegations against an adult working with children (in a paid or voluntary capacity). The procedures require that, where an allegation against a member of staff is received, the Manager will inform the duty Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) on 020 7974 4556, Email LADO@camden.gov.uk or complete report form and forward to Camden LADO (https://cscp.org.uk/professionals/managing-allegations-against-staff-and-volunteers-lado/) within one working day. However, wherever possible, contact with the LADO will be made immediately, as they will then advise on how to proceed, whether the matter requires police involvement and the referral process going forward.

In accordance with the Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage (DfE, 2024), we will also inform Ofsted of any allegations of serious harm or abuse by any person living, working, or looking after children at the premises (whether the allegations relate to harm or abuse committed on the premises or elsewhere). We will also notify Ofsted of the action taken in respect of the allegations. We will make these notifications as soon as reasonably practicable, but within 14 days of the allegations being made. We are aware that not complying with these requirements without reasonable excuse is committing an offence – See Full Policy – "PROCEDURE Ofsted Notification 12.24".

12. Physical intervention and use of reasonable force

The term 'reasonable force' covers a broad range of actions used by staff that involve a degree of physical contact to control or restrain children. There may be circumstances when it is appropriate for our staff to use reasonable force to safeguard children, but these are exceptional circumstances and do not form part of our routine approach to managing behaviour. 'Reasonable' means using no more force than is needed. Our Nursery works in accordance with statutory and local guidance on the use of reasonable force and recognises that where intervention is required, it should always be considered in a safeguarding context. Our Behaviour Policy reflects the approach taken to understanding behaviour, physical contact and intervention.

13. Whistleblowing

All members of staff and the wider Nursery community should be able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and feel confident any concern will be taken seriously by the leadership team. We have 'whistleblowing' procedures in place – See Full Policy – "POLICY Whistleblowing 12.24".

However, for any member of staff who feels unable to raise concerns internally, or where they feel their concerns have not been addressed, they may contact the NSPCC whistleblowing helpline on: 0800 028 0285 (line is available from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Monday to Friday) or by email at: help@nspcc.org.uk.

Parents / carers or others in the wider Nursery community with concerns can contact the NSPCC general helpline on 0808 800 5000 (24-hour helpline) or email: help@nspcc.org.uk.

14. Online Safety – including filtering and monitoring

Technology forms part of the Statutory framework for the early year's foundation stage; computer skills are key to accessing learning. We help our children to begin to learn how to use technology safely, and to be safe online. We will engage with our parents / carers about online safety to support them in keeping their children safe at home when using technology.

At BabyiSH Nursery, we are dedicated to safeguarding children in all aspects of their development, including their use of technology. We implement robust filtering systems to block inappropriate content and ensure all digital resources are age-appropriate. Monitoring measures are in place to supervise children's online activities, with staff actively overseeing device usage to maintain a safe and supportive learning environment.

15. Use of mobile phones and other electronic devices

We acknowledge that mobile phones and other electronic devices are often the only means of contact available and can be helpful in supporting safeguarding arrangements in BabyiSH Nursery, including when on outings. In our Nursery, when mobile phones are used and other electronic devices, this is underpinned by a risk assessment and operated within a clear framework, so everyone understands their responsibilities in ensuring phones are used safely – See Full Policy – "POLICY Mobile phone and other electronic devices 12.24".

We will ensure that staff **personal** mobiles:

- are stored securely in the agreed designated areas: STAFF ROOM: LOCKERS OR BOX ABOVE MICROWAVE and will be switched off or on silent whilst staff are on duty.
- are not used to take pictures of any children attending BabyiSH Nursery.
- are not used to take photographs, video or audio recordings In BabyiSH Nursery.
- are not used to contact parents / carers or children except in the event of an emergency; and are not used by visitors.

16. Use of cameras, photography and images

Most people who take or view photographs or videos of children do so for acceptable reasons. However, due to cases of abuse to children through taking or using images, we must ensure that we have safeguards in place.

To keep our children safe, we will:

- always obtain consent from parents / carers for photographs or video recordings to be taken, used, or published (for example, on our website or displays)
- ensure only the Nursery designated cameras are used when photographing or videoing children.
- ensure that children are appropriately dressed if photographs or videos are to be taken
- ensure that children's names are not displayed alongside any photographs in a public space
- ensure that personal devices including cameras, mobile phones, tablets, smart watches or other such technology are not used to take photographs, video or audio recordings in our Nursery without prior explicit written consent from the Nursery.
- ensure that all images are stored securely and in accordance with statutory guidance.
- ensure where professional photographers are used that the appropriate checks, such as those with the Disclosure and Barring Service, references and parental consent are obtained prior to photographs being taken.

17. Attendance

Regular attendance is important to a child's development, progress and wellbeing, and is encouraged at all times. Poor attendance can be a concern for a number of reasons:

- it is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect
- it can significantly impact on a child's progress and / or wellbeing
- a child may be exposed to additional risks when not in the Nursery

As part of safeguarding and attendance procedures, a daily record of the names of the children being cared for on the premises and their hours of attendance is maintained and this data is used to identify patterns of absence as they emerge, to ensure concerns are addressed at an early stage. Children are registered on the Famly Application, including, absences, sick days and holidays.

BabyiSH Nursery has the following procedure for when a child does not attend a session:

If the child does not attend the setting by 11:30, they are contacted by the Nursery Manager. Once a response is received action will take place. The child will be logged in as sick or holiday, if a reason is not stated, the child will be marked as absent, and a note will be made on the child's chronology. Further action will take place If this becomes frequent practice.

The Nursery will hold a minimum of 2 emergency contact details for every child that attends the nursery.

18. Safer Eating

We ensure that a staff member with a valid paediatric first aid certificate is always present while children are eating. Before admission, we gather detailed information about each child's dietary needs, food allergies, intolerances, and health requirements, sharing this information with all staff involved in food preparation. We work closely with parents and health professionals to develop and regularly update allergy action plans. Staff are trained to recognise allergy symptoms, manage anaphylaxis, and understand how allergies can develop. Food is prepared to suit each child's developmental stage, with textures and safety measures to prevent choking. Children eat in safe, distraction-free environments under constant supervision. In the event of a choking incident, we record the details, inform parents promptly, and review trends to improve safety and reduce future risks.

19. Toileting and privacy

We are committed to respecting children's privacy during nappy changing and toileting while ensuring their safety and well-being. Staff follow clear procedures to maintain dignity and confidentiality, balancing the child's need for privacy with safeguarding and support requirements. All interactions are conducted sensitively, with appropriate supervision to ensure the child feels secure and supported at all times.

Appendix A – Types of abuse and harm

Information about abuse and harm including examples of specific safeguarding issues is set out below. Further information about types of abuse and harm is given in:

- What to do if you're worried a child is being abused: Advice for practitioners (HMG, 2015); and
- Keeping children safe in education (DfE, 2024).

Abuse is a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. A child may be abused by an adult or adults or another child or children – the four categories of abuse are:

- **Physical** - *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 / carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child*
- **Emotional** - *the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development*
- **Sexual** - *forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children*
- **Neglect** - *persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development*

Signs of possible abuse

- **Physical** - *children with frequent injuries, unexplained or unusual fractures / broken bones, unexplained bruises, or cuts; burns or scalds; or bite marks*
- **Emotional** - *children who are excessively withdrawn, fearful, or anxious about doing something wrong; parents or carers who withdraw attention from their child, giving the child the 'cold shoulder'; parents or carers blaming their problems on their child; parents or carers who humiliate their child (eg: name-calling / making negative comparisons)*
- **Sexual** - *children who display knowledge / interest in sexual acts inappropriate to their age; children who use sexual language / have sexual knowledge that you wouldn't expect them to have; children who ask others to behave sexually / play sexual games; children with physical sexual health problems, including soreness in the genital and anal areas, sexually transmitted infections / underage pregnancy*
- **Neglect** - *children living in a home that is indisputably dirty or unsafe; children who are hungry or dirty; children without adequate clothing (eg: not having a winter coat, shoes); children living in dangerous conditions (eg: around drugs, alcohol or violence); children who are often angry, aggressive or self-harm; children who fail to receive basic health care; parents who fail to seek medical treatment when their children are ill or are injured*

Harmful sexual behaviour

It is normal for some children to display sexualised behaviour towards their peers as they develop. However, harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) is developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour which is displayed by children and young people, and which may be harmful or abusive (derived from Hackett, 2014). It may also be referred to as sexually harmful behaviour or sexualised behaviour. HSB encompasses a range of behaviour, which can be displayed towards younger children, peers, older children or adults. It is harmful to the children and young people who display it, as well as those it is directed towards.

Children can experience HSB in various settings. This includes at their setting, at home (or at another home), in public places, and online. At BabyiSH Nursery, issues can occur in places which are supervised and unsupervised. For example, abuse may occur in toilets, changing areas, or outside spaces such as play areas, and when travelling home.

If a child's sexual behaviour is not healthy or age-appropriate, it's important to respond quickly before the behaviour becomes harmful to that child or other children, and to ensure they receive the right help at the right time to address the concerning behaviour.

Children with special educational needs and disabilities

Children with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities can face additional safeguarding challenges. Barriers can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in this group of children. This can include:

- assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's disability, without further exploration
- that they may be more prone to peer group isolation than others
- the potential to be disproportionally impacted by things like bullying, without outwardly showing signs
- communication difficulties in overcoming these barriers

Children with SEND may require additional help and support to ensure they are appropriately safeguarded.

Domestic abuse

Domestic abuse is any type of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between people who are, or who have been in a relationship, regardless of gender or sexuality. It can also happen between adults who are related to one another and can include physical, sexual, psychological, emotional or financial abuse.

Being exposed to domestic abuse in childhood is child abuse and can have a significant and lasting impact. Children may experience domestic abuse directly, but they can also experience it indirectly. Either can have a serious effect on a child's behaviour, brain development and overall wellbeing, and also compromise the child's basic need for safety and security.

Contextual safeguarding

Contextual safeguarding recognises that as young people grow and develop, they are influenced by a whole range of environments and people outside of their family and that children may encounter risk in any of these environments. Sometimes the different contexts are inter-related and can mean that children and young people may encounter multiple risks. Contextual safeguarding looks at how these risks can be understood to keep children safe. It's an approach that's often been used to apply to adolescents, though the lessons can equally be applied to younger children.

Modern Slavery: Child criminal exploitation (CCE): County Lines

Criminal exploitation of children is a geographically widespread form of harm that is a typical feature of county lines criminal activity: drug networks or gangs groom and exploit children and young people to carry drugs and money from urban areas to suburban and rural areas, market and seaside towns.

Key to identifying potential involvement in county lines are missing children, when the victim may have been trafficked for the purpose of transporting drugs and a referral to the National Referral Mechanism should be considered.

Like other forms of abuse and exploitation, county lines exploitation can affect:

- Siblings and families of children that attend the setting.
- any vulnerable adult over the age of 18 years; (this may affect staff, volunteers and students and/or families with children attending the setting)
- can still be exploitation even if the activity appears consensual;
- can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and is often accompanied by violence or threats of violence;
- can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and young people or adults; and is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the exploitation.

Whilst age is a factor, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources.

Modern Slavery: Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Trafficking

BabyiSH Nursery identifies that CSE involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people receive something (for example food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, gifts, money or in some cases simply affection) as a result of engaging in sexual activities.

BabyiSH Nursery is aware that sexual exploitation can take many forms ranging from the seemingly 'consensual' relationship where sex is exchanged for affection or gifts, to serious organised crime by gangs and groups. What marks out exploitation is an imbalance of power in the relationship. The perpetrator always holds some kind of power over the victim which increases as the exploitative relationship develops. Sexual exploitation may involve varying degrees of coercion, intimidation or enticement, including unwanted pressure from peers to have sex, sexting, sexual bullying including cyberbullying and grooming. However, it also important to recognise that some young people who are being sexually exploited do not exhibit any external signs of this abuse or recognise this as abusive.

Every member of staff, volunteers and students at the nursery recognises that children at risk of CSE need to be identified and issues relating to CSE should be approached in the same way as protecting children from other risks.

Trafficked Children and modern slavery

Human trafficking is defined by the UNHCR in respect of children as a process that is a combination of:

· Movement (including within the UK);

· Control, through harm / threat of harm or fraud

· For the purpose of exploitation

Any child transported for exploitative reasons is considered to be a trafficking victim. There is significant evidence that children (both of UK and other citizenship) are being trafficked internally within the UK and this is regarded as a more common form of trafficking in the UK. There are a number of indicators which suggest that a child may have been trafficked into the UK and may still be controlled by the traffickers or receiving adults.

These are as follows:

- Shows signs of physical or sexual abuse, and/or has contracted a sexually transmitted infection
- Has a history with missing links and unexplained moves
- Has limited freedom of movement

- Appears to be missing for periods
- Is known to beg for money
- Is being cared for by adult/s who are not their parents/caregivers and the quality of the relationship between the child and their adult carers is not good
- Is one among a number of unrelated children found at one address
- Has not been registered with or attended a GP practice
- Is excessively afraid of being deported.

For those children who are internally trafficked within the UK indicators include:

- Physical symptoms (bruising indicating either physical or sexual assault)
- Prevalence of persistent urinary tract infections or other harm to private areas.
- Reports from reliable sources suggesting the likelihood of involvement in sexual exploitation / the child has been seen in places known to be used for sexual exploitation
- Evidence of drug, alcohol or substance misuse
- Being in the community in clothing unusual for a child i.e. inappropriate for age
- Persistently missing or being collected late
- Low self- image, low self-esteem, self-harming behaviour including cutting, promiscuity
- Disengagement with learning/making friendships
- Entering or leaving in vehicles driven by unknown adults
- Going missing and being found in areas where the child or young person has no known links; and/or possible inappropriate use of the internet and forming on-line relationships, particularly with adults.

These behaviours themselves do not indicate that a child is being trafficked but should be considered as indicators that this may be the case. When considering modern slavery, there is a perception that this is taking place overseas.

Emotional wellbeing

Children's personal, social and emotional development (PSED) is crucial for them to lead healthy and happy lives and is fundamental to their cognitive development. Underpinning their personal development are the important attachments that shape their social world. Strong, warm and supportive relationships with adults enable children to learn how to understand their own feelings and those of others. Children should be supported to manage emotions, develop a positive sense of self, set themselves simple goals, have confidence in their own abilities, to persist and wait for what they want and direct attention as necessary. Through adult modelling and guidance, they will learn how to look after their bodies, including healthy eating, and manage personal needs independently. Through supported interaction with other children, they learn how to make good friendships, co-operate and resolve conflicts peaceably. These attributes will provide a secure platform from which children can achieve at school and in later life.

Wellbeing problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation. Where children have suffered abuse or other potentially traumatic adverse childhood experiences, this can have a lasting impact throughout childhood, adolescence and into adulthood.

Radicalisation, extremism and the Prevent Duty

Individuals are vulnerable to radicalisation and extremism; in the same way they are vulnerable to other safeguarding issues. Prevent Duty) defines the following:

Extremism: the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. This also includes calling for the death of members of the armed forces – update new phrase

Radicalisation: refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups

Terrorism: an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (HMG, 2015) placed a duty on childcare providers and schools - under section 26 of the Act, childcare providers and schools are required, in the exercise of their functions, to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'.
This duty is known as the **Prevent Duty**.

Channel is a national programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people identified as vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Prevent referrals may be passed to a multi-agency Channel panel, which will discuss the individual referred to determine whether they are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism and consider the appropriate support required. A representative from an educational Nursery may be asked to attend the Channel panel to help with this assessment. An individual's engagement with the programme is entirely voluntary at all stages.

So-called 'Honour Based Abuse'
So-called 'honour'-based abuse (HBA) encompasses incidents or crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and / or the community, including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, and practices such as breast flattening.

Abuse committed in the context of preserving 'honour' often involves a wider network of family or community pressure and can include multiple perpetrators. It is important to be aware of this dynamic and additional risk factors when deciding what form of safeguarding action to take. All forms of HBA are abuse (regardless of the motivation) and should be handled and escalated as such. Professionals in all agencies, and individuals and groups in relevant communities, need to be alert to the possibility of a child being at risk of HBA, or already having suffered HBA.

Female Genital Mutilation
FGM comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs. It is illegal in the UK and a form of child abuse with long-lasting harmful consequences.

Information about FGM is available on the National FGM Centre website.

Forced marriage
Forcing a person into a marriage is a crime in England and Wales. A forced marriage is one entered into without the full and free consent of one or both parties and where violence, threats or any other form of coercion is used to cause a person to enter into a marriage. Threats can be physical or emotional and psychological. A lack of full and free consent can be where a person does not consent or where they cannot consent (if they have learning disabilities, for example). Nevertheless, some perpetrators use perceived cultural practices as a way to coerce a person into marriage.

The Forced Marriage Unit has published statutory guidance and multi-agency guidelines, which are available on the GOV.UK website. The Forced Marriage Unit can also provide advice and information: call 020 7008 0151 or email fmu@fcdo.gov.uk.

In addition, since February 2023 it has also been a crime to carry out any conduct whose purpose is to cause a child to marry before their eighteenth birthday, even if violence, threats or another form of coercion are not used. As with the existing forced marriage law, this applies to non-binding, unofficial 'marriages' as well as legal marriages.

Breast Flattening

Breast flattening is the process during which young pubescent girls' breasts are ironed, massaged, flattened and/or pounded down over a period of time (sometimes years) in order for the breasts to disappear or delay the development of the breasts entirely.

Information about breast flattening is also available on the National FGM Centre website.

Spirit Possession or Witchcraft
Spirit possession is when parents/caregivers, families and the child believe that an evil force has entered a child and is controlling them; the belief includes the child being able to use the evil force to harm others.

A child may suffer emotional, physical and sexual abuse and neglect if they are labelled and treated as being possessed with an evil spirit. Significant harm may occur when an attempt is made to 'exorcise' or 'deliver' the evil spirit from the child. Dismissing the belief may be harmful to the child involved.

Poor parenting

Parenting becomes a safeguarding concern when the repeated lack of supervision, boundaries, basic care or medical treatment places the child(ren) in situations of risk or harm. In situations where parents/caregivers struggle with tasks such as setting boundaries and providing appropriate supervision, timely interventions can make drastic changes to the wellbeing and life experiences of the child(ren) without the requirement for a social work assessment or plan being in place.

Fabricated Illness
This is also a type of physical abuse. This is where a child is presented with an illness that is fabricated by the adult carer. The carer may seek out unnecessary medical treatment or investigation.
The signs may include a carer exaggerating a real illness or symptoms, complete fabrication of symptoms or inducing physical illness, e.g. through poisoning, starvation, inappropriate diet. This may also be presented through false allegations of abuse or encouraging the child to appear disabled or ill to obtain unnecessary treatment or specialist support.

Mental Health
The mental health of a parent or carer does not necessarily have an adverse effect on a child but may have implications for any children involved in the family. The adverse effects of parental mental illness on the child are less likely when the parental problems are mild and appropriately treated, last for a short period of time and are not associated with family disharmony and where there is another member of the family who can respond to the child's needs and offer protection.

Professional Love
We recognise the importance of professional love as a fundamental principle in fostering a safe, nurturing, and supportive environment for children and young people. Professional love encompasses the genuine care, empathy, and commitment required to build trusting relationships that promote emotional well-being, resilience, and positive development. While maintaining clear professional boundaries, we encourage our staff to demonstrate compassion, warmth, and respect in their interactions, ensuring every child feels valued, respected, and understood.

If, however you become concerned about a child's welfare, or any of the above types of abuse or harm, you have a duty to report your concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead so support can be sought for the family, and children can be protected.