

Safeguarding Children

Blue Penguin Montessori intends to create an environment in which children are safe from abuse and where any suspicion of abuse is promptly and appropriately responded to. In order to achieve this we as a setting maintain all records, policies and procedures required for the safety and efficient safeguarding of all our families and staff. **Please see below a list of all statutory documentation that we as a setting here at Blue Penguin Montessori comply with:**

Children's act 1989 & 2004

The Modern Slavery Act 2015

Working together to Safeguard children 2015

The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

Children and Families act 2014

The Children and Young Persons Act 2014

The Education Act 2014

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2014

Suitable Practitioners:

It will be made clear to all applicants applying for any post within Blue Penguin Montessori that the position is exempt from the provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. All applicants applying for work within the setting whether voluntary or paid will be subject to an interview and will be required to provide a minimum of one reference. A DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check will be completed immediately upon successful interview and a probation period of three working months will be required before any permanent contracts are given, this is to ensure that all candidates can be safely entrusted within the setting.

Training:

As a setting we provide regular opportunities for our practitioners to refresh and renew their Safeguarding training, this is to ensure that all have the confidence and ability to recognize the possible signs of Neglect, Physical, Emotional and Sexual abuse, They are also aware of the local authority guidelines for making the appropriate referrals if necessary. We will also provide all Safeguarding training to all Volunteers within the setting.

Prevention by means of good practice:

Practitioners within the setting will not be left alone with the children for any long period of time, nor shall the children ever be left unattended within any area of the nursery and will always have a practitioner supervising at all times.

Mobiles phones belonging to the staff are not used on the ground floor premises during working hours and are stored in the staff area of the nursery. In the event of an emergency, mobile phones may be

used in the privacy of the office located upstairs on the third floor, with permission from the manager. All staff members ensure that the setting telephone number is known to immediate family and other people who may need to contact them during the working day.

A nursery mobile is provided to practitioners in the event of nursery outings – This is a basic mobile phone with no camera or video recording facility. This phone is taken on trips in case of emergency along with the contact numbers of the children present and a fully equipped first aid kit.

Blue Penguin Montessori advises all staff members not to babysit for any parents/carers of the children who attend the setting. If they wish to do so this is at their own discretion and no arrangements are to be made within the grounds of Blue Penguin Montessori.

Any staff member working at Blue Penguin Montessori must not bring their own cameras or video recorders into the setting. We only take photographs and videos of the children to evidence their development within their Blue Penguin Learning Journals and for display boards within the setting. Photographs and videos of the children are only taken using Blue Penguin equipment and are monitored by the manager. Photographs and videos are only taken of the children that have written permission to do so (found on the child's individual registration form). Once a child leaves the setting all photos and videos shall be destroyed.

For special events like nursery performances and celebrations, permission will be gained from all parents to enable photographs and videos to be publicly taken at their own discretion. These may end up being used on social media sites so we take additional precautions when these circumstances arise.

Safeguarding children definitions

- **Physical Abuse:** Physical abuse is any intentional act causing injury or trauma to another person. This can be in the form of; hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, scalding, drowning or suffocating. Physical abuse may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms or deliberately induces illness in a child.
- **Emotional Abuse:** This can be defined as any act including confinement, isolation, verbal assault, humiliation, intimidation or any other treatment which may diminish the sense of identity, dignity and self-worth. Some level of abuse is involved in all types of child maltreatment.
- **Sexual Abuse:** This involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The abuse may involve physical contact, including penetration or penetrative acts.
- **Neglect:** This is the persistent failure to meet the child's basic physical and/or physiological needs, likely to result in a serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to; provide adequate food, clothing and shelter, protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger, ensure adequate supervision, ensure access to appropriate medical care and it may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.
- **Extremism and radicalisation:** The UK Government defines extremism as: 'Vocal' or active opposition to fundamental British Values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.
- **Modern slavery and child trafficking:** This is becoming a more frequent form of child abuse and involves children being recruited, moved, transported and then exploited, forced to work or are sold on. These children experience multiple forms of abuse and neglect. Physical, emotional and sexual abuse are often used to control victims of trafficking. Children are also likely to be physically and emotionally neglected.

- **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM):** FGM has been classified by the World Health Organisation (WHO) into four types:
 - **Type One:** Clitoridectomy: partial or total removal of the clitoris.
 - **Type Two:** Excision: partial or total removal of the clitoris and labia minora.
 - **Type Three:** Infibulation: narrowing of the vaginal opening through the creation of a covering seal.
 - **Type Four:** Other: all other harmful procedures to the female genitalia for non-medical purposes, e.g. pricking, piercing, incising, scraping and cauterising the genital area.

Responding to suspicions of abuse

Any change in a child's behaviour or appearance will be recorded and parents will be the first point of reference with any concerns. However, if a child is thought to be in immediate danger, the police and/or social services will be contacted immediately. All suspicions and investigations will be kept confidential, shared only with professionals that need to know.

Chronology forms

Every child that attends Blue Penguin Montessori will have a chronology form filled out with their personal details, to be kept confidentially in the office of the setting. The purpose of this form, is to record all accidents/incidents known to the setting and any medication administered by the setting. By doing this, any concerns of the child's safety and wellbeing will be highlighted to staff members and can be dealt with appropriately. These forms are used in order to make information sharing with other agencies more efficient should it be necessary.

Allegations against staff

At Blue Penguin Montessori, we pride ourselves in our strong, professional relationships with children and families, which are built up during a child's time at the setting. As a result of these trusting relationships, we believe our parents would feel comfortable to raise any concerns, should they have any. We ensure that parents are aware of how to complain about the behaviour or actions of staff within the setting, from a safeguarding perspective or about anyone living or working on the premises occupied by the setting. Blue Penguin Montessori follows guidance from the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) when responding to any allegations made against a member of the team or anyone working on the premises. We co-operate entirely with any investigations carried out by children's Social Care in conjunction with the Police.

The Child's voice

As a setting, the children are our priority at all times and it is vital that they feel safe, comfortable and valued at all times. We recognize that children must feel confident to express and communicate their thoughts and feelings, especially when something is troubling them. By building up trusting relationships with our children, we are encouraging them to have a 'voice' within the setting and we build up knowledge about each child which can be extremely useful if abuse is suspected. As a team, we recognize when a child's body language, emotional state or general persona has altered and we are trained to respond appropriately to these changes if they are severe and last longer than is usual for the child. Having a trusting relationship, also promotes the opportunity for children to disclose information to a member of staff because they know the member of staff is someone they can trust and who can help them. We are also trained on how to respond appropriately to disclosure and if necessary, how to pass this information on to the appropriate agencies.

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead at Blue Penguin Montessori is: Sophie Morgan

Relevant Contact Numbers/Email Addresses:

Advice and Support for DSL:

Kay Errington: 01202 456204

kay.errington@bournemouth.gov.uk

Suse Goddard: 01202 456278

sue.goddard@bournemouth.gov.uk

Referrals to the MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub):

If the child lives in Bournemouth:

Tel: 01202 458101/458102 (During office hours: 8.30am – 5.15pm, Mon –Thurs 8.30am – 4.45pm Fri)

Out of hours 01202 657279

E-mail: MASH@bournemouth.gov.uk

If the child lives in Poole: (During office hours: 8.30am – 5.15pm, Mon –Thurs 8.30am – 4.45pm Fri)

Tel: 01202 735046

Out of hours 01202 657279

E-mail: MASH@poole.gov.uk

If the child lives elsewhere in Dorset: (During office hours: 8.30am – 5.15pm, Mon –Thurs 8.30am – 4.45pm Fri)

Tel: 01202 228866

Out of hours 01202 657279

E-mail: MASH@dorsetcc.gcsx.gov.uk

For allegations made against staff:

Laura Baldwin Named Senior Officer / Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

Tel: 01202 456744

Email: Lado@bournemouth.gcsx.gov.uk

Family Support Hub:

Email: family.supporthub@bournemouth.gov.uk

Tel: 01202 456884 - General enquiries.

Tel: 01202 456172 - Direct line for advice and guidance on Early Help Assessment and Support Plans