



SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION

Everyone at Forest school has a responsibility in relation to child protection and safeguarding all children.

We are committed to:

- taking all reasonable measures to safeguard and promote the welfare of each child and young person (pupil) in our care
- the practice of safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children and young people
- protecting each pupil from any form of abuse including neglect, whether from an adult or another pupil child on child abuse

Our aims:

- ✚ to raise awareness of individual responsibilities in identifying and reporting possible cases of abuse and/or harm to the self or others
- ✚ to provide a systematic means of monitoring, recording and reporting of concerns and cases
- ✚ to provide guidance on recognising and dealing with suspected child abuse
- ✚ to provide a framework for inter-agency communication and effective liaison
- ✚ to ensure that any deficiencies or weaknesses in child protection arrangements are remedied without delay
- ✚ to ensure that safe recruitment procedures are operated

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- ✚ to design and operate procedures which promote this policy and which, so far as possible, ensure that teachers and others who are innocent are not prejudiced by false allegations
- ✚ to contribute to the operation of appropriate health and safety procedures
- ✚ to have regard to and be consistent with relevant statutory and regulatory requirements and guidance.

In addition, adults working within Forest School need to appreciate that when children feel comfortable and content, when their instinct to trust and risk take is encouraged, they may be moved to disclose information which they might have otherwise kept to themselves. Any volunteer, or member of staff, who finds that a child is telling them something that concerns them should follow the course of action set out below in simple steps:

1. Listen to the pupil but ask NO leading questions. Allow the child to lead the discussion but do not press for details.
2. Keep calm and offer reassurance. Accept what the child says without challenge.
3. Make NO promises. You cannot 'keep a secret'. You should make it understood that there are limits to confidentiality at the start of the disclosure.
4. Inform the Child Protection Officer (K Browne)
5. Keep an accurate, written record of the conversation, including the date, the time, the place the conversation occurred in and the essence of what was said and done by whom and in whose presence. This should be as detailed and as accurate as possible. Keep the record secure and hand it to the CPO/DSL

In addition to this please see the attached document on the home page of our adapted full Somerset Safeguarding and Child Protection policy.

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