



LISAL

LANCASTER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
FOR ALTERNATIVE LEARNING

Early Years Safeguarding

Version date: January 2024

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Introduction:

This policy amendment is to be followed in addition to the main Safeguarding policy for LISAL and equally applies to all stakeholders; including pupils, staff, parents, trustees, volunteers, placement students and visitors from both settings, LISAL and Appledore Montessori Ltd.

The following amendment to the school's safeguarding policy specifically addresses the early years stage of education. It aims to provide a comprehensive framework for promoting the welfare and protection of children in the early years, including measures to prevent and respond to any safeguarding concerns that may arise. This policy amendment is in line with national legislation and guidelines, ensuring that our school remains a safe and nurturing environment for all children.

1. Designated Safeguarding Lead for Early Years:

1.1. The school will designate a member of staff as the designated safeguarding lead specifically for the early years stage.

1.2. The designated safeguarding lead for early years will undergo appropriate training regarding safeguarding issues specific to early years, such as child protection procedures and signs of abuse or neglect in younger children.

1.3. The designated safeguarding lead for early years will have the necessary skills, knowledge, and experience to effectively respond to any safeguarding concerns in the early years setting.

1.4. The DSL for Early Years is Maialen Galarraga Gallastegui.

2. Staff Training and Awareness:

2.1. All staff members working in the early years setting, including those working at Appledore Montessori Ltd will receive regular training on the school's safeguarding policy, procedures, and practices relevant to early years.

2.2. Training will cover recognizing signs of abuse or neglect in early years children, responding to disclosures, handling safeguarding concerns, and understanding their legal responsibilities.

2.3. Staff members will be made aware of their designated safeguarding lead for early years and how to report any concerns to them or the appropriate authorities.

3. Enhanced Supervision and Observation:

3.1. Enhanced supervision will be provided in the early years setting to ensure appropriate levels of care, safety, and protection for children.

3.2. Staff members will maintain a high level of vigilance in observing and documenting any potential safeguarding concerns, such as signs of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse, neglect, or risk factors in the child's home environment.

3.3. Regular observations of interactions between staff members and children will be carried out, ensuring that best practice in safeguarding is maintained at all times.

4. Partnership with Parents and Carers:

4.1. Parents and carers will be actively involved in safeguarding their children during the early years stage.

4.2. The school will establish effective channels of communication with parents and carers, ensuring that they are aware of the safeguarding policy, procedures, and their role in reporting concerns or sharing information.

4.3. The school shall seek consent from parents and carers before sharing any relevant information with external agencies involved in safeguarding, unless there are reasonable grounds to believe that seeking consent would place the child at further risk.

5. Safeguarding Curriculum:

5.1. A developmentally appropriate and comprehensive safeguarding curriculum will be implemented in the early years setting.

5.2. The curriculum will cover age-appropriate topics such as personal safety, body autonomy, protective behaviours, and understanding rights and boundaries, to equip children with the knowledge and skills to keep themselves safe.

5.3. The safeguarding curriculum will be regularly reviewed and updated to reflect any emerging safeguarding issues and provide the necessary support to early years children.

6. Personal Electronic Devices:

6.1. The use of all personal electronic devices with imaging and sharing capabilities, not just mobile phones and cameras is strictly prohibited inside the Early Years classroom or at any other time when in contact with the EY pupils. (Section 3, Safeguarding policies and procedures). The use of personal electronic devices by staff and pupils outside of the EY is closely monitored by the school, in accordance with the [Acceptable Use policy](#).

Conclusion:

By implementing this amendment to the school's safeguarding policy, we aim to ensure that children in the early years stage are afforded the utmost protection and care. This policy amendment reinforces our commitment to creating a safe and nurturing environment for our early years children, where their well-being and development are prioritized and safeguarded.