

BARTON KIDS CLUB



Safeguarding Policy

Barton Kids Club is committed to a 'culture of safety' in which the children in our care are protected from abuse, harm and radicalisation.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- Providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge
- Protecting children from maltreatment, whether that is within or outside the home, including online
- Preventing the impairment of children's mental and physical health and development
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

The Club will respond promptly and appropriately to all incidents or concerns regarding the safety of a child. The Club's child protection procedures comply with all relevant legislation and with guidance issued by Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board.

There is a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) available at all times while the Club is in session. The DSL is responsible for coordinating child protection issues and liaising with external agencies (e.g. Social Care and Ofsted) as needed. The Club's Designated Safeguarding Lead is Wendy Fairey, the Deputy is Jackie Burr.

Child abuse, neglect and exploitation

Child abuse, neglect and exploitation is any form of physical, emotional or sexual mistreatment or lack of care that leads to injury or harm. An individual may abuse, neglect or exploit a child directly, or by failing to protect them from harm. Some forms of child abuse, neglect and exploitation are listed below.

- **Emotional abuse** is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child so as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve making the child feel that they are worthless, unloved, or inadequate. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.
- **Physical abuse** can involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may be also caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes, ill health to a child.
- **Sexual abuse** involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. This can involve physical contact, or non-contact activities such as showing children sexual activities or encouraging them to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.
- **Neglect** is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and emotional needs. It can involve a failure to provide adequate food, clothing and shelter, to protect a child from physical and emotional harm, to ensure adequate supervision or to allow access to medical treatment.

BARTON KIDS CLUB



Signs of child abuse and neglect

Signs of possible abuse, neglect and exploitation may include:

- significant changes in a child's behaviour
- deterioration in a child's general well-being
- unexplained bruising or marks
- comments made by a child which give cause for concern
- mental health problems
- reasons to suspect neglect or abuse outside the setting, e.g. in the child's home, or that a girl may have been subjected to (or is at risk of) female genital mutilation, or that the child may have witnessed domestic abuse
- inappropriate behaviour displayed by a member of staff, or any other person. For example, inappropriate sexual comments, excessive one-to-one attention beyond the requirements of their role, or inappropriate sharing of images.

If abuse is suspected or disclosed

When a child makes a disclosure to a member of staff, that member of staff will:

- reassure the child that they were not to blame and were right to speak out
- listen to the child but not question them
- give reassurance that the staff member will take action
- record the incident as soon as possible using the **Logging a concern** form

If a member of staff witnesses or suspects abuse, they will record the matter straightaway using the **Logging a concern** form and reporting procedures will be followed. If a third party expresses concern that a child is being abused, we will encourage them to contact Social Care directly. If they will not do so, we will explain that the Club is obliged to and the incident will be logged accordingly.

All staff recognise that children may not feel ready or know how to tell someone that they are being abused, exploited or neglected and/or they may not recognise their experiences as harmful. This could be due to their vulnerability, disability or language barriers. They may also feel embarrassed, humiliated or are being threatened. Our staff recognise this and where they have any concerns about a child, they will raise these with the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) without unreasonable delay.

Female genital mutilation (FGM)

FGM is an illegal, extremely harmful practice and a form of child abuse and violence against women and girls. FGM is therefore dealt with as part of our existing safeguarding procedures. All of our staff receive training in how to recognise when girls are at risk of FGM or may have been subjected to it. If FGM is suspected or disclosed we will follow the same procedures as set out above for responding to child abuse and will make a report to Children's Social Care directly.

Child-on-child abuse

Children are vulnerable to abuse by their peers. Child-on-child abuse is taken seriously by staff and will be subject to the same child protection procedures as other forms of abuse. Staff are aware of the potential uses of information technology for bullying and abusive behaviour between young people.

Staff will not dismiss abusive behaviour as normal between young people. The presence of one or more of the following in relationships between children should always trigger concern about the possibility of child-on-child abuse:

- Sexual activity (in primary school-aged children) of any kind, including sexting
- One of the children is significantly more dominant than the other (e.g. much older)
- One of the children is significantly more vulnerable than the other (e.g. in terms of disability, confidence, physical strength)
- There has been some use of threats, bribes or coercion to ensure compliance or secrecy.

BARTON KIDS CLUB



If child-on-child abuse is suspected or disclosed

We will follow the same procedures as set out above for responding to child abuse.

Domestic abuse

Children can be victims of domestic abuse through seeing, hearing or experiencing the effects of abuse at home. That abuse can be, but is not limited to, psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional.

Extremism and radicalisation

All childcare settings have a legal duty to protect children from the risk of radicalisation and being drawn into extremism. There are many reasons why a child might be vulnerable to radicalisation, e.g.:

- feeling alienated or alone
- seeking a sense of identity or individuality
- suffering from mental health issues such as depression
- desire for adventure or wanting to be part of a larger cause
- associating with others who hold extremist beliefs

Signs of radicalisation

Signs that a child might be at risk of radicalisation include:

- changes in behaviour, for example becoming withdrawn or aggressive
- claiming that terrorist attacks and violence are justified
- viewing violent extremist material online
- possessing or sharing violent extremist material

If a member of staff suspects that a child is at risk of becoming radicalised, they will record any relevant information or observations on a **Logging a concern** form.

Logging a concern

All information about the suspected abuse or disclosure, or concern about radicalisation, will be recorded on the **Logging a concern** form as soon as possible after the event. The record should include:

- name and date of birth of the child involved
- date and time at which the record was made
- name, signature and job title of the person making the record
- date of the disclosure, or the incident, or the observation causing concern
- a factual report of what happened. If recording a disclosure, the child's own words must be used

The record will be given to the Club's Designated Safeguarding Lead who will decide on the appropriate course of action.

For concerns about child abuse, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will contact Social Care. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will follow up all referrals to Social Care in writing within 48 hours. If a member of staff thinks that the incident has not been dealt with properly, they may contact Social Care directly.

For minor concerns regarding radicalisation, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will contact the Central Bedfordshire Prevent Officer. For more serious concerns the Designated Safeguarding Lead will contact the Police on the non-emergency number (101), or the anti-terrorist hotline on 0800 789 321. For urgent concerns the Designated Safeguarding Lead will contact the Police using 999.

BARTON KIDS CLUB



Allegations against staff

If anyone makes an allegation of child abuse against a member of staff:

- The allegation will be recorded on a **Logging a concern** form. Any witnesses to the incident should sign and date the entry to confirm it.
- The allegation must be reported to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and to Ofsted. The LADO will advise if other agencies (e.g. police) should be informed, and the Club will act upon their advice. Any telephone reports to the LADO will be followed up in writing within 48 hours.
- Following advice from the LADO, it may be necessary to suspend the member of staff pending full investigation of the allegation.
- If appropriate, the Club will make a referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Promoting awareness among staff

The Club promotes awareness of child abuse and the risk of radicalisation through its staff training. Staff are aware that abuse, neglect, exploitation and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone issues and events and cannot be covered by one definition or one label alone. Staff recognise that children can be at risk of harm inside and outside of their time in our setting, inside and outside of home and whilst online. Our team are trained to exercise professional curiosity to help identify early signs of abuse neglect and exploitation and will act early in cases where children might need our help or protection. If staff are unsure, they will always speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy.

The Club ensures that:

- the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy have relevant experience and receive appropriate training in safeguarding and the Prevent Duty, and are aware of the Channel Programme and how to access it
- designated person training is refreshed every two years
- safe recruitment practices are followed for all new staff, volunteers and committee members
- all staff have access to this **Safeguarding** policy, understand its contents and are vigilant to signs of abuse, neglect or radicalisation
- all staff are aware of their statutory duties with regard to the disclosure or discovery of child abuse, and concerns about radicalisation
- all staff receive basic safeguarding training, and safeguarding is a regular agenda item at staff meetings
- all staff receive training in the Prevent Duty
- staff are familiar with the Safeguarding File which is located in the admin cupboard
- staff are supported to understand how to keep themselves safe and how to blow the whistle should they be concerned about another adult's behaviour or practise
- the Club's procedures are in line with the guidance in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023)' and staff are familiar with 'What To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused (2015)'.

Use of mobile phones and cameras

Photographs will only be taken of children with their parents' permission. Only the club cameras will be used to take photographs of children at the Club. Neither staff nor children nor visitors may use their mobile phones or wearable technology to take photographs at the Club. See **Mobile Phone Policy**.

BARTON KIDS CLUB



Contact numbers

Social Care: 0300 300 8585

Social Care out of hours contact: 0300 300 8123

LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer): 0300 300 8142

Central Beds Safeguarding Children Board: 01582 547624 / 01582 547590

Local Authority Prevent Officer: 0300 300 8585

Police: 101 (non-emergency) or 999 (emergency)

Anti-terrorist hotline: 0800 789 321

NSPCC: 0808 800 500

Ofsted: 0300 123 1231

This policy was adopted by: Barton Kids Club	Date: January 2025
To be reviewed: Annually	Signed: Linda Hoenes, Manager