

Little Angels
COVID-19 Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
Appendix 1
Effective June 1st 2020

This policy annex reflects the specific issues Little Angels Day-care requires all employees and volunteers to be aware of as the nursery prepares to reopen. We currently have no children on EHCP

This policy annex is based on DfE guidance issued for COVID-19. This policy annex should also be read and understood in conjunction with the safeguarding policy, risk assessments, health and safety requirements, code of conduct, Whistleblowing and the principles set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education. This appendix and all linked policies and procedures will be reviewed regularly.

The safeguarding of children remains our priority and everyone's responsibility. Where an adult has concerns about a child they should report this immediately to DSL or the Deputy DSL using Little Angels procedures. As a greater number of children return to Little Angels after having spent a number of weeks at home, it is likely that:

- Many will have anxieties that will cause them to be distressed at being back at nursery.
- Many are likely to have mental health concerns
- Children are likely to have had significant changes in their routine and will struggle to adjust back to being at school
- Some children will have suffered abuse from the adults in their house
- Some children will have witnessed domestic abuse and violence or have been abusive to their parents/carers or siblings (peer on peer abuse)

Disclosures:

As a result of the above (not an exhaustive list), all adults must be vigilant to the likelihood that there may be a greater number of disclosures. Little Angels staff will ensure that the following key points are understood. Staff will need to be vigilant to this and act when appropriate. School information on disclosure highlights the following key principles:

- remain calm and reassuring in your manner, listen.
- Give the child your full attention to demonstrate you are listening carefully and taking the information seriously.
- Let the child talk/play
- If they need further encouragement remember TED (Tell me, Explain, Describe)
- Let them know that, to ensure they will be safe, you will need to tell someone else.
- Let them know what you are going to do next at an age appropriate level.
- Don't make promises to keep a disclosure a secret

As soon as the child is safe, ensure the child's words (or actions) are recorded as accurately as possible and this is shared immediately with the DSL on site or senior member of staff who is responsible for safeguarding due to the DSL's absence.

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Wherever possible, the DSL or Deputy DSL will be on site and can be accessed by all staff. They will be available to act on concerns as these become apparent, including to support partner agencies should information be required to be shared. Should it not be possible for the DSL or any deputies to be on site, they will be contactable by phone and email or similar virtual means.

DSL will ensure that safeguarding files and chronologies have been updated with all relevant information since the start of school closures and will continue to ensure that this record keeping is kept up to date.

Safeguarding training is done by All staff.

The DSL will ensure that all staff and volunteers receive information that enables them to undertake their safeguarding role with diligence and curiosity. This is likely to be through the sharing of information, through email and other forms of communication. The DSL will also ensure that staff have enough information that means they can fulfil their specific roles in school, (recognising this role may be different due to Covid 19). Staff will ensure that they seek further support if they feel that they need greater information or support, please speak to Nicola Welsh

All staff are reminded of their Whistleblowing responsibilities should they have a concern about the behaviour of member of the senior staff members.

Little Angels will continue to follow its legal duty to check DBS for any staff members or follow the guidance on staff during COVID

Little Angels will continue to support and advise families on how to keep their child safe (e.g. online safety and mental health awareness) via a variety of different communications.

Summary of key points:

- The best interests of children must always continue to come first
- If anyone at Little Angels has a safeguarding concern about any child or a concern about a colleague, they should continue to act and act immediately as per established procedures
- DSL or deputy should always be available or contactable and staff will know who this is daily and how to contact them
- It is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children's workforce and/or gain access to children