

Collaton St Mary Pre-school

The Parish Rooms, Blagdon Road, Collaton St Mary, Paignton TQ3 3YA

Child Safeguarding Policy

Designated Person: Julia Yarrell

Julia has attended appropriate Child Protection Training.

Collaton St Mary Pre-school fully recognises its responsibilities for child protection.

Our policy applies to all staff, trainees and volunteers working in the Pre-school. There are five main elements to our policy:

1. Ensuring we practice safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff, trainees and volunteers to work with children.
2. Raising awareness of child protection issues and equipping children with the skills needed to keep them safe.
3. Developing and then implementing procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse.
4. Supporting children who have been abused in accordance with his/her agreed child protection plan.
5. Establishing a safe environment in which children can learn and develop.

We recognise that because of the day to day contact with children, Pre-school staff are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse. The Pre-school will therefore:

- Establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk, and are listened to.
- Ensure children know that there are adults in the Pre-school whom they can approach if they are worried.
- Include opportunities in the PSHE curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse.

We will follow the procedures set out by the local safeguarding board and take account of guidance issued by the Department for Education and Skills to:

- Ensure we have a designated staff member for child protection who has received appropriate training and support for this role.
- Ensure every member of staff, trainee and volunteer knows the name of the designated staff member responsible for child protection and their role.
- Ensure all staff, trainees and volunteers understand their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and responsibility for referring any concerns to the designated staff member responsible for child protection.
- Ensure that parents have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the Pre-school and staff for child protection by setting out its obligations in the Pre-school prospectus.
- Notify social services if there is an unexplained absence of more than two days of a child who is on the child protection register.

- Develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with their enquiries regarding child protection matters including attendance at case conferences.
- Keep written records of concerns about children, even where there is no need to refer the matter immediately.
- Ensure all records are kept securely; separate from the main pupil file, and in locked locations.
- Develop and then follow procedures where an allegation is made against a member of staff, trainee or volunteer.
- Ensure safe recruitment practices are always followed.

We also follow the guidelines from 'The what to do if you are warned a child is being abused' booklet.

We recognize that children who are abused or witness violence may find it difficult to develop a sense of self worth. They may feel helplessness, humiliation and some sense of blame. The Pre-school may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. When at Pre-school their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn. The Pre-school will endeavor to support the child through:

- The content of the curriculum.
- The Pre-school ethos which promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and gives children a sense of being valued.
- The Pre-school behaviour policy which is aimed at supporting vulnerable children in the school. The Pre-school will ensure that the child knows that some behaviour is unacceptable but they are valued and not to be blamed for any abuse which has occurred.
- Liaison with other agencies that support the child such as social services, Child and Adult Mental Health Service, education welfare service and educational psychology service.
- Ensuring that, where a child on the child protection register leaves, their information is transferred to the new setting immediately and that the child's social worker is informed.

It is our duty to ensure that children are protected by Prevent Duty Legislation 2015, it is the duty of all childcare providers to ensure that all children in their care are not subject to undue or extremist views, influences and prevent them from being radicalised. We have a duty of care to report any concerns about radicalisation of children in my care.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of the Collaton St Mary Pre-school Trustees.

Date

Signed

Position

Review date