

NETHER GREEN JUNIOR AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Safeguarding Children Policy Abuse, Harm & Radicalisation

Policy statement

Nether Green Junior After School Club is committed to providing a safe space in which children are protected from abuse, harm and radicalisation.

The club will respond promptly and appropriately to all incidents or concerns regarding the safety of a child that may occur. The club's child protection procedures comply with all relevant legislation and with the guidance issued by Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership (SCSP).

The club's Designated Safeguarding Lead is Tammy Nelson and, in her absence, Hannah Howarth. The DSL coordinates child protection issues and liaises with external agencies such as Ofsted, social care and the SCSP.

Child abuse and neglect

Child abuse is any form of physical, emotional or sexual mistreatment or lack of care that leads to an injury or harm. An individual may abuse or neglect a child directly or indirectly - by failing to protect them from harm from other people or from other external factors.

The four main forms of abuse are below:

- **Emotional abuse**
Persistent maltreatment of a child that causes severe negative effects on a child's emotional well-being/development. This may involve making the child feel worthless, unloved or inadequate. Emotional abuse is present in some form in all abuse but may occur alone.
- **Physical abuse**
Can involve hitting, shaking, throwing, burning, drowning, poisoning, suffocating or anything that causes physical harm to a child. Physical harm is also seen when a parent medicates for an illness not present or deliberately causes a child to be sick.
- **Sexual abuse**
Forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child consents or not (children under the age of 16 legally cannot consent to sexual activities). This involves contact and non-contact activities, such as showing a child sexual activity or encouraging them to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.
- **Neglect**
The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and emotional needs e.g. inadequate shelter, clothing or not meeting nutritional needs. Failure to protect them from physical harm or emotional harm from external factors, such as poor supervision and not getting the correct medical treatment.

Possible signs of child abuse and neglect

- Significant changes in child's behaviour
- Deterioration in a child's general well-being
- Unexplained bruising's and marks
- Comments made by a child which give cause for concern, for example, disclosures or non-age appropriate information
- Inappropriate behaviour displayed by a member of staff, or any other person. For example, excessive 1-1 attention, inappropriate sexual comments or sharing of inappropriate images.

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If abuse was disclosed 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 member of staff will take action and cannot keep it to themselves
- Record the incident asap
- Inform the appropriate people to help (DSL, DSD, social care, police etc.)

If a member of staff witnessed or suspected abuse, they will record the incident straightaway and pass this on to the DSL/DSD.

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 NGJASC is obliged to report this and log this on our records accordingly

Making a referral

All information on making a referral can be found at

<https://www.safeguardingsheffieldchildren.org/sscb/safeguarding-information-and-resources/referring-a-safeguarding-concern-to-childrens-social-care> or by calling the Sheffield Safeguarding Hub.

Peer on peer abuse

Children are vulnerable to abuse by their peers. Peer on peer 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 peer on peer abuse:

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

If peer on peer abuse is disclosed or suspected – We will follow the same procedure as set out above for responding to child abuse.

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 including:

- 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 a risk of becoming radicalised, they will record any relevant information or observations on a **Report of Concern** form, and refer the matter to the DSL.

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Recording an incident

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

- The date of the disclosure, or the incident, or the observation causing concern
- Date and time the record was made
- Name and date of birth of the child
- A factual report of what happened. If recording a disclosure, you must use the child's own words
- Name, signature of the person making the record
- The DSL to sign off any forms to say they have been made aware.
- The initial action taken – can be filled out by DSL after report is made.

The record will be given to the club's DSL who will decide on the appropriate course of action.

For concerns about child abuse, the DSL will contact Social Care. The DSL 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. [0114 273 4855]

For minor concerns regarding radicalisation, the DSL will contact 0114 273 4850

- Email Prevent Inbox: Prevent_Inbox@southyorks.pnn.police.uk
- Police advice on 101

Include:

- Full name and DOB of child/young person,
- Full names and DOB of household members,
- Contact telephone numbers,
- Any significant contacts outside of family home,
- Any known affiliations to groups,
- Non-ambiguous statements and concerns – be specific and objective!

In emergency situations where there is an immediate risk of danger to the person in question or another person, ring 999.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

From 31st October 2015 all regulated professionals (Health, Social Care and Teachers) are required to report known cases of FGM in girls who are under 18 directly to the Police, by phoning 101 as soon as possible and within 48 hours. This is a personal responsibility and cannot be transferred to anyone else. (*FGM Strategy 2018*)

FGM is a form of violence against women and girls which is, in itself, both a cause and consequence of gender inequality. Whilst FGM may be an isolated incident of abuse within a family, it can be associated with other behaviours that discriminate against, limit or harm women and girls. These may include other forms of honour-based violence (e.g. forced marriage) and domestic abuse. (*HM GOV - Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation 2016*)

Department of Health (2016). Female Genital Mutilation Risk and Safeguarding. Guidance for Professionals.

Allegations against staff

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

- The allegation will be recorded on an incident record form. Any witnesses to the incident should sign and date the entry to confirm it.

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- The allegation must be reports to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and to Ofsted. The LADO will advise if other agencies (e.g. the police) should be informed, and the club will act upon their advice. Any telephone reports to 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 a 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. The club ensures that:

- The DSL has relevant experience and receives appropriate training in safeguarding and the prevent duty.
- Safe recruitment practices are followed for all new staff
- All staff have a copy of this Safeguarding Children policy, understand its contents and are vigilant to signs of abuse, neglect and 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 CORE safeguarding training before starting – provided online by the SSCB.
- All staff are kept up to date with basic knowledge of prevent duty and awareness of FGM.
- Staff are familiar with the Safeguarding File which is kept in a locked cupboard on the premises
- The club's procedures are in line with the guidance in 'Working together to Safeguard Children (2018)' and staff are familiar with the guidance 'What To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused (2015)'.

Use of mobile phones

Parents should not be using their mobile phones inside the club. Photographs of their child can be taken with staff supervision and staff make sure that no other child is in the photo being taken. Only a club mobile can be used to take photos of children – there is a club digital camera on site. Staff are to keep their phones in the storage room unless given permission by the manager. No children should have/use their phones in club time – these can be given to the staff on the front desk.

Abuse in Education

The Department for Education has commissioned the NSPCC to establish a dedicated independent [helpline](#) for people who have experienced abuse in education.

The helpline went live on 1 April 2021, and will provide both children and adults who have experienced sexual abuse in schools with support and advice, including onward action such as contacting the police if they wish to. The helpline will also provide support to parents and professionals. Anyone who gets in touch through this dedicated helpline will also be signposted to other relevant support services available, including Childline, which provides ongoing support and counselling to children and young people.

The dedicated and confidential NSPCC helpline – Report Abuse in Education can be reached on 0800 136 663 or by email at help@nspcc.org.uk.

Contact numbers

Sheffield Safeguarding Hub: 0114 273 4855

LADO (Andrew Adedoyin): 0114 273 4855 option 1 or 07889737078 or via LADO@sheffield.gov.uk

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

Anti-terrorist hotline: 0800 789 321

NSPCC: 0808 800 500

Ofsted: 0300 123 1231

For parents

If you're worried a child is at risk of or has already had FGM, call the free, anonymous dedicated FGM helpline on [0800 028 3550](tel:08000283550) or email fgm.help@nspcc.org.uk.

This policy was adopted by	<u>Nether Green Junior ASC</u>	name of setting
Held on	<u>November 2021</u>	(date)
Date to be reviewed	<u>November 2022</u>	(date)

Signed on behalf of the management committee

Name of signatory	<u>Tammy Nelson</u>
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Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner)	<u>Manager</u>
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