

# Les Poussins (Milton Keynes) CIC



## **SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT including COVID-19 related issues**

## **Objective**

To contribute to the personal safety of all children/young people attending Les Poussins by promoting child protection awareness, good practice and sound procedures in all aspects of safeguarding.

## **Policy statement**

We at Les Poussins believe that children/young people have the right to be treated equally and to learn in a safe and friendly environment.

1. This policy is based on the following principles:

- The welfare of the child/young person is paramount.
- All children/young people, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and/or sexual identity, have the right to protection from abuse.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- Staff/volunteers are trained to understand the nature of abuse and to be alert to matters of concern.
- All staff/volunteers working for Les Poussins have a duty to safeguard children and young people.
- All staff/volunteers have a responsibility to report concerns to the designated person with responsibility for child protection at the school, and/or to any directors.

2. We aim to safeguard children/young people by:

- Developing and implementing safeguarding policies and procedures including: child protection and health & safety policies and guidelines; a code of conduct for staff/volunteers, staff and volunteer procedures; complaints, whistle blowing and equal opportunity policies.
- Sharing information about child protection and good practice with children/young people, parents and carers and staff/volunteers.
- Sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children/young people appropriately.
- Following carefully the procedures for recruitment and selection of staff/volunteers.
- Providing effective management for staff/volunteers through support, supervision and training.
- Involving children, where appropriate, in the development and implementation of safeguarding policies and procedures.
- Reviewing our policy and good practice regularly.

3. The coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak may have caused significant mental health or wellbeing difficulties for some children and they may be at increased risk of harm or abuse. Due to the circumstances, vulnerable children may be particularly isolated, meaning that the family, community and professional networks they usually rely on may be unavailable or hard to access. Therefore, it is important that we and our staff are aware of the safeguarding issues that can put children at risk, such as abuse and neglect, and the signs to look out for :

- unusual injuries, including bruises, burns, fractures, bite marks or signs of self-harm
- consistently poor hygiene, poor living conditions or inappropriate clothing
- communicating aggressively or using sexual language
- appearing withdrawn, guarded, anxious or frightened, particularly around certain individuals

We may also need to consider how to support:

- individual children and young people who have found the long period at home hard to manage
- those who have developed anxieties related to the virus

Some children may also have experienced bereavements in their immediate family or wider circle of friends or family or had increased or new caring responsibilities.

As part of our provision, we will provide:

- opportunities for children to talk about their experiences of the past few months
- opportunities for conversations with trusted adults where this may be supportive
- some lessons on relevant topics, for example, mental wellbeing or staying safe

**The designated safeguarding leads for Les Poussins (Milton Keynes) CIC are Claire Husaunndee and Anne Ruff.** They will take responsibility for referring any allegations or suspicions of neglect or abuse to the statutory authorities.

#### 4. Contact numbers

The MASH agency covering **the home address** of the person referred should be contacted.

The Multi Agency safeguarding Hub (MASH) team for Milton Keynes can be contacted on [01908 253169](tel:01908253169) or [01908 253170](tel:01908253170). We can also email [children@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:children@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

The MASH team of Northampton can be contacted on [0300 126 7000](tel:03001267000), or by email [earlyhelpsupport@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:earlyhelpsupport@northamptonshire.gov.uk).

The MASH team for Bucks County Council can be contacted through the first response team on [0800 999 7677](tel:08009997677)

A Multi-Agency referral form (MARF) should be filled in online by designated lead to make a referral.

This policy statement should be read with the following policies and procedures from Les Poussins:

Les Poussins (Milton Keynes) CIC – Safeguarding policy statement 2024

- Child protection policy
- **Equal opportunities policy** including recruitment and complaints procedures
- **Staff and volunteer policy** including induction, training, supervision, appraisal and whistle blowing procedures included in the Staff Handbook.
- **Health & safety policy** including risk assessment and off-site procedures
- School **code of conduct**
- **COVID-19 policy**