

Safeguarding Responsibilities

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

All staff, students and volunteers must:

- place children's welfare at the centre of decision making
- understand and follow safeguarding procedures
- attend safeguarding training
- maintain professional curiosity
- recognise signs and indicators of abuse
- report concerns immediately
- record concerns factually and accurately
- work in partnership with safeguarding professionals where required

Staff must never assume that someone else has reported a concern.

Any concern, however small, should be discussed with the DSL or Deputy DSL.

Professional Curiosity

EDG Nursery promotes a culture of professional curiosity.

Professional curiosity means respectfully questioning, observing, listening and seeking to understand a child's lived experiences rather than accepting information at face value.

Staff are expected to remain alert to:

- changes in behaviour
- changes in appearance
- unexplained injuries
- attendance concerns
- emotional wellbeing concerns
- developmental concerns
- family circumstances
- repeated patterns of concern

Staff should continually ask themselves:

"Could there be something more happening for this child?"

Professional curiosity is an important part of effective safeguarding practice.

What is Safeguarding?

Safeguarding means:

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing impairment of children's health or development
- ensuring children grow up in safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children to achieve the best outcomes

Safeguarding is broader than child protection and includes children's overall welfare, health, development and wellbeing.

Categories of Abuse (P.E.N.S)

Staff should be familiar with the four main categories of abuse:

Category	Description
Physical Abuse	Deliberately causing physical harm to a child
Emotional Abuse	Persistent emotional maltreatment affecting emotional development
Neglect	Persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical or emotional needs
Sexual Abuse	Forcing or enticing a child to participate in sexual activities

Staff must remain alert to both individual incidents and patterns of concern.

Additional Safeguarding Risks

Staff should also be aware of wider safeguarding concerns including:

- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)
- County Lines
- Cuckooing
- Domestic Abuse
- Harmful Sexual Behaviour
- Child-on-Child Abuse
- Online Abuse
- Cyberbullying
- Grooming
- Radicalisation and Extremism
- Honour-Based Abuse
- Forced Marriage
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Breast Ironing
- Modern Slavery
- Human Trafficking
- Witchcraft and Spirit Possession Beliefs
- Fabricated or Induced Illness (FII)
- Serious Youth Violence
- Gang Involvement
- Knife Crime
- Missing Children
- Homelessness
- Parental Substance Misuse
- Parental Mental Health Difficulties
- Emotional Wellbeing Concerns
- Children with SEND who may be more vulnerable to abuse

Any concerns relating to these areas must be reported to the DSL immediately.

Early Help

EDG Nursery recognises the importance of identifying concerns early.

Where concerns do not meet safeguarding thresholds but indicate that a child or family may require additional support, the nursery may work with families and external agencies through an Early Help approach.



Early Help may be considered where concerns relate to:

Educate. Develop. Grow

- attendance
- housing difficulties
- family relationships
- financial hardship
- behaviour concerns
- SEND needs
- parental wellbeing
- emotional wellbeing

The nursery aims to work collaboratively with families to secure support at the earliest opportunity.