

St Marychurch Pre-school

Child Protection Information for Parents and Carers

Statement of intent

At St Marychurch Pre-school we strive to ensure that all children remain safe and free from harm. We are committed to playing a full and active part in the multi-agency response to children protection concerns. Additionally, St Marychurch Pre-school has a legal duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to have a child protection policy to meet Department of Education and Department of health requirements.

Throughout the day to day contact with children and direct work with families, our staff have a crucial role to play in noticing indicators of possible abuse or neglect. Parents should be aware therefore that where it appears to a member of staff that a child may have been harmed, the pre-school is legally required, as part of the local child protection procedures to report their concern to Children's Social Care immediately. To avoid any misunderstandings therefore, parents of children who sustain accidental injuries which result in cuts/bruises/fractures should inform the setting without delay.

Aim

- Children have the right to be safe
- Parents have a right to be informed
- Children are best protected when parents and the setting can work together

Partnership

St Marychurch Pre-school will inform parents of any concerns about their children (providing it does not compromise the child's safety) and will help and support them as necessary.

Prevention

St Marychurch Pre-school will take positive action to prevent children suffering abuse and neglect through the development of an open culture that informs children of their rights and encourages them to speak about any concerns. St Marychurch Pre-school will also address the issue of children's safety throughout the curriculum.

Responding to Concerns

St Marychurch Pre-school will refer all allegations or concerns that a child has been, or likely to be abused or neglected to Social Care within the Children's Services department. St Marychurch Pre-school will also consult with other agencies when it has concerns that a child may have been abused or neglected. St Marychurch Pre-school will discuss with parents any concerns they have about children. Parents will be kept informed of what is happening, however, if it is felt that to do so would compromise the safety of the child they will seek advice from Children's Services or the Police and act on their direction.

Please refer to the Whistle Blowing Policy regarding making an allegation against a staff member and contact information.

Child/Child Abuse

St Marychurch Pre-school is aware that children may abuse other children if they have been abused themselves and this may be a disclosure to us, also known as peer to peer abuse. This abuse may also be in the form of a sexual nature. Both sets of parents will be reported to individually and reports prepared.

Child Protection Conferences

St Marychurch Pre-school will attend conferences and provide information about children and families. This information will be shared with parents beforehand. St Marychurch Pre-school will keep confidential child protection records separately from a child's developmental learning and other settings records.

Confidentiality

Information and records about children on a Child Protection Plan will be given only to those people who need it and will be kept strictly confidential by them. However, if we were to receive information from another party about the possible abuse of a child then we would by duty bound to pass this on to the relevant agencies.

A full copy of the Child Protection Safeguarding Policy for St Marychurch Pre-school is available on the setting's website at stmarychurchpreschool.co.uk

This statement to be reviewed and signed annually.

Chairperson.....

Signed.....

Date reviewed.....

We aim to provide a safe, stimulating, caring, happy Pre-school where all children and their families are welcome. We provide a curriculum based on the Early Years Foundation Stage using individual children's interest and needs.