

MANAGING ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE POLICY

INTRODUCTION

At Ash & Claire Childminding, we take all allegations and concerns regarding the safety and welfare of children seriously. This policy outlines our procedures for responding to allegations or concerns that a childminder, volunteer, visitor, household member, parent/carers, or another child may have behaved in a way that harmed or could harm a child.

This policy should be read in conjunction with our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

This policy is informed by the following legislation and statutory guidance:

- Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) 2024
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024
- The Children Act 1989 and 2004
- The Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

Ashleigh Crouch and Claire Hedges are the Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) for our setting and are

responsible for managing allegations and safeguarding concerns.

1. ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ASH, CLAIRE, OR OTHER ADULTS IN THE SETTING

If an allegation is made that Ash, Claire, a staff member, volunteer, household member, or visitor has:

- Harmed a child
- Put a child at risk of harm
- Behaved in a way that indicates they may pose a risk to children
- Committed a criminal offence against or related to a child

We will:

- Record the details factually and objectively
- Contact the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) on the **same working day**: 01962 876364
- Inform Ofsted: 0300 123 1231 / enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
- Inform our insurance provider
- Suspend childcare services temporarily if advised to do so by the LADO
- Cooperate fully with all investigations

Witnesses will be asked to provide written statements, and all

correspondence will be stored confidentially.

2. ALLEGATIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT A CHILD

If a child discloses abuse or we observe signs of abuse, we will:

- Listen calmly and carefully, using open-ended prompts ("Tell me about...", "Explain to me...")
- Never promise secrecy
- Reassure the child and explain what will happen next
- Record the child's words as accurately as possible
- Contact the Local Safeguarding Partners (Children's Services):
childrens.services@hants.gov.uk / 0300 555 1384
- Inform Ofsted where appropriate
- Contact the police immediately if the child is believed to be in immediate danger

All records will be kept securely and transferred to the child's next setting as needed.

3. ALLEGATIONS AGAINST PARENTS/CARERS

If a concern is raised about a parent/carer, we will:

- Log the concern and monitor the child
- Discuss with Children's Services if necessary
- Only speak to parents/carers if it is safe to do so
- Record the action taken

4. ALLEGATIONS OF FGM

If we suspect a child is at risk of, or has undergone Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), we will:

- Immediately contact the police and Children's Services
- Record all actions taken

FGM is illegal in the UK and considered a form of child abuse.

5. CHILD-ON-CHILD ABUSE

Child-on-child abuse (also known as peer-on-peer abuse) can include:

- Sexual violence or harassment
- Bullying
- Physical abuse
- Upskirting
- Hazing/initiation
- Online abuse

We will:

- Respond seriously and sensitively
- Support both the victim and the alleged perpetrator
- Contact the Local Safeguarding Partners for advice
- Create a behaviour support plan if needed
- Record all actions

6. ALLEGATIONS AGAINST OTHER PROFESSIONALS

If we have safeguarding concerns about another childcare professional (e.g. at a toddler group), we will:

- Follow whistleblowing procedures
- Contact the LADO
- Keep a written log of concerns, conversations, and actions taken
- Report the concern to Ofsted if applicable

7. WHISTLEBLOWING

If you feel a safeguarding concern has not been appropriately addressed, you can contact:

- **Ofsted Whistleblowing Hotline:**
0300 123 3155

- **Email:**
whistleblowing@ofsted.gov.uk

8. RECORDING AND RETENTION

We will record:

- Child's name, DOB, and address
- Date, time, and details of the incident or disclosure
- Actions taken
- Individuals spoken to

All safeguarding records will be stored securely, retained in accordance with local safeguarding guidance, and transferred securely if a child leaves the setting.

9. PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents/carers must inform us of any issues that may affect their child's emotional wellbeing, such as:

- Family changes
- Accidents or illnesses
- Worries or anxieties

This information helps us provide sensitive and appropriate care.

10. SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

We expect all adults involved in our setting to play an active role in

safeguarding children. Never assume someone else has reported a concern.

USEFUL CONTACTS

- **Police (Emergency):** 999
- **LADO:** 01962 876364
- **Children's Services:**
childrens.services@hants.gov.uk / 0300 555 1384
- **Ofsted:** 0300 123 1231 /
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
- **Ofsted Whistleblowing:** 0300 123 3155 /
whistleblowing@ofsted.gov.uk

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