# Mayfield Preschool

**Covid19 Addendum to Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy**

This addendum sets out to summarise any key changes or challenges that may be faced with regards to Child Protection and Safeguarding within our setting, during and following the Novel Coronavirus: Covid 19 pandemic. It will be used in conjunction with our usual policy and our Epidemic and Pandemic Policy. Any changes or differences during the pandemic will be outlined here.

**Mayfield Preschool's Safeguarding**

**Our safeguarding principles must remain focused on the following:**

* Children, their well-being and safety is paramount at all times within our setting and we will continue to adopt a child centred practice in our preschool
* Any concerns about a child or young persons welfare should be acted upon immediately in keeping with effective safeguarding policies and procedures
* Concerns should be written down, dated and timed, and signed. They should be shared asap with a DSL, and when not presenting further risk to a child, concerns should be shared with the parent.
* There should always be a designated safeguarding lead (DSL) or deputy available at all times (whether setting is open or closed – contactable via email or telephone)
* It is important that unsuitable people do not enter the children’s workforce and have access to children. During the pandemic no visitors are permitted on site.
* Children should always be protected when they are on-line. Online safety is flagged up to all parents.

Leaders should maintain a culture of safeguarding across the organisation and undertake their role to lead and manage safe and protective practice for children and young people.

**SPOA**

* SPOA remains open, and has remained open, throughout the Covid19 pandemic, for receipt of any concerns from professionals and members of the public, where they have identified a concern about a child's welfare or safety. It remains an integrated front door for the Children's Social Care and CAHMS.
* SPOA will be contactable in the usual ways and usual Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy should be followed:
  + Access the children’s portal through eastsussex.gov.uk/childrensportal
  + Login in
  + Select ‘Single Point of Advice Referral’
  + Make an SoR (Statement of Referral’

**Designated Leads**

**The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) it states that a DSL must have attended child protection training and that their role enables and supports staff to recognise signs of possible abuse and neglect and to respond appropriately in a timely manner.**

During the COVID 19 pandemic, considerations for our practitioners in regard to safeguarding and child protection will include:

* Communication to all staff of any changes or arrangements for the named DSL in event of staff absence or illness.
* A coordinated approach the provides compliant and effective information sharing for children who may move to other settings/LA's, and social care during this time.
* Revision of policies, with any changes being clearly communicated to all staff and parents/guardians.
* Staff made aware of any online training that they may wish to undertake during this time.

It is important that the setting can still have access to a DSL at all times. The roles of DSL’s continue to involve supporting other staff (where relevant, single childminders are the exception) and also liaising with children’s social workers where they require access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments as and when required. This may be via telephone or email.

Mayfield Preschool DSL's are: Lauren Glasson, Julia Harper and Paige Merrick.

**Staff or Parental Concerns about a Child**

If parents or staff have concerns regarding a child, they should follow our usual policy. They can contact the DSL either via email or via telephone in the normal ways to make any disclosures or statements. All conversations will be held in the highest confidence and recorded, as always, and SPOA will be contacted for advice if necessary.

**Vulnerable Children (and Families) and those with EHC Plans**

Vulnerable children include those who have social worker involvement, though at Mayfield Preschool we acknowledge that not all 'vulnerable' groups will have a statutory intervention in place. We recognise that during the pandemic more children may be exposed to risks as their families have less support than usual. As a result of isolation we may find that they are at higher risk regarding:

* all categories of abuse and neglect
* domestic violence
* child criminal exploitation
* online dangers

To support children who we have identified as being vulnerable or who have an EHC during the pandemic we will:

* Regularly email and use our online learning journal (Tapestry) to support with ideas for home learning and activities
* Stay in contact with families with social work involvement
* Stay in regular contact with social workers
* Send 'care package' to families that we have identified as vulnerable (activities & magazines for children, and a small gift for parents)

On reopening of the setting, we will ensure that we continue to be vigilant with all children and staff, and that all staff are kept up to date on signs of abuse and neglect, knowing what to look for. We will invite vulnerable groups and those with EHC plans to return (if previously closed) and will plan to risk assess EHC children alongside parents.

Any children who have a social worker, or we are monitoring as potential 'at risk' children and return to the setting, will have attendance monitored for continuity, and we will endeavour to check in with parents on days if they are not in. If we have a vulnerable child who's family decide not to return to the setting for now we will:

* Contact the child’s parents to establish the reasons for non-attendance
* Contact the child’s social worker or key workers and partners working with them externally to your setting
* Record accurately responses from parents and conversations, advice and actions from other professionals with whom we liaise such as social workers. These records will form an important chronology of events, circumstances and decision making processes taking during the COVID 19 period.

**Domestic Abuse: Help During Covid**

We acknowledge that during the Covid-19 pandemic, anxiety and stress levels may raise, and that those at risk of domestic violence may be placed at further risk.

## Recognising domestic abuse: Anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, socio-economic status, sexuality or background.

## What is domestic abuse? Domestic abuse is not always physical violence. It can also include:

* + coercive control and ‘gaslighting’
  + economic abuse
  + online abuse
  + threats and intimidation
  + emotional abuse
  + sexual abuse

### What signs to look for? If you believe that you or someone else could be a victim of domestic abuse, there are signs that you can look out for including:

* + being withdrawn, or being isolated from family and friends
  + having bruises, burns or bite marks
  + having finances controlled, or not being given enough to buy food or pay bills
  + not being allowed to leave the house, or stopped from going to college or work
  + having your internet or social media use monitored, or someone else reading your texts, emails or letters
  + being repeatedly belittled, put down or told you are worthless
  + being pressured into sex
  + being told that abuse is your fault, or that you’re overreacting

If we are worried that someone we know is a victim of domestic abuse, we can call Refuge’s National Domestic Abuse Helpline for free, confidential support, 24 hours a day on 0808 2000 247.

Visit the [helpline website](https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/) to access information on how to support a friend/parent.

If we believe there is an immediate risk of harm to a child or one of our parents, or it is an emergency, we will call 999.

**Arrangements in place for children and families not currently attending the setting (either due to closure, shielding or delay in return)**

All our families currently not back at the setting will receive regular contact from the manager and key people. We will endeavour to:

* Regularly add to all children's learning journals (Tapestry) to include home learning and play ideas
* Keep regular emails to parents with update government advice and county guidance
* Forward any transition details and learning support to all our school leavers
* Ensure that all our families have been contacted regarding changes to policy, procedures, parental agreements and arrangements with regards to the preschool opening
* We will create a platform for parent partnership, inviting questions and offering support to all during this time.
* A separate Pandemic Page will be created on our website to provide support resources for our families.

**Children Moving Settings**

**It is vitally important that receiving schools or settings have relevant welfare and child protection information about a child coming to them from another setting (whether this be from preschool to preschool (nursery) or preschool to primary school).**

The receiving setting should be aware of the reason the child is vulnerable and any arrangements in place to support them. Other important information for the receiving setting should be given;

* as appropriate have access to a vulnerable child’s EHC plan
* child in need plan
* child protection plan
* for looked-after children, their personal education plan and know who the child’s social worker (and, for looked-after children in schools who the responsible VSH is)
* All relevant summative assessment and forwarded learning journey.
* Safeguarding notes
* Details of social worker and current living arrangements/care order

Information about a vulnerable child is usually shared with and managed by the DSL. If this is not possible during the COVID 19 period, a member of the senior leadership team in school (SLT) can take responsibility for these arrangements. In first instance, the new setting will be contacted by telephone, as will the social worker to confirm. Arrangements will then be made to deliver all information to the new setting following usual CP and GDPR methods.

**Keeping Children Safe Online**

The following link will be shared with all our families, as well as a reminder of keeping children safe online, and our website safeguarding page that include stories for children such as DigiDuck.

**Mental Health and Safeguarding**

It is clear that during this difficult time children are understandably anxious and worried, as are parents – often then exacerbating other feelings. During this time the Government has produced a document specifically to children’s mental health and well-being which we will share with all families, ‘Government’s Guidance for parents and carers on supporting children and young people’s mental health and well-being during the coronavirus COVID 19 outbreak’ and has a number of principles to consider:

* How children and young people react can vary depending on their age
* Some children will show stress and anxiety straight away, some will react later
* Negative reactions may include worrying thoughts about their health or that of family and friends, fear, avoidance, problems sleeping, or physical symptoms such as stomach ache, wetting or lethagy
* When adults can stay calm and confident they can best support children and young people

Here are some considerations from the Government document to help children and young people cope with stress:

* Listen and acknowledge– Given that children will respond and react differently, be aware that this will show in a number of ways. This could be demonstrated through emotions and behaviours. Emotions may display as being distressed, anxious and upset (tearful) or anger. Children may have a significant change in behaviour and they become more clingy or withdrawn. Children will feel less anxious when they can communicate and express their feelings in a safe environment and with people whom they can trust and love. Listen to children, acknowledge their concerns and show them extra attention during times of stress.
* Provide clear information about the situation – It is important to talk openly and honestly about what is happening with children and to answer their questions as best as you can. Explain what is being done to keep them safe and well. Even though we may not have all of the answers it is most important to keep listening and acknowledging their worries and concerns.
* Be aware of your own reactions – Children will look to important and relevant adults in their lives and to take from them their ‘emotional cues’. It is important that adults stay calm and try to manage their own emotions.
* Connect regularly – Some children during the COVID 19 crisis will find themselves in locations that are different than usual for example staying at home, in hospital or other locations. It important for them to be in regular contact with those important adults in their lives. Make time for frequent contact via phone calls or on-line video calls.
* Create a new routine – Routines provide children with an increased feeling of safety especially when things are significantly changing around them. Children who are not in school or nursery can feel displaced as they take on new routines each day. Think about how the changes can be adapted to create new routines taking into account times for play, learning and relaxing. Sufficient sleep and exercise for children is particularly important during this period of time also.
* Limit exposure to media and speak and talk about what they have seen – So much media attention on COVID 19 is currently taking over our TV and social media content. Think about how much of this children are exposed to and consider limiting or not viewing these things when they are present. If children are worried about what they have seen on TV or heard about on social media, encourage them to talk to you about this.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

**Health Visitor**

Due to Covid-19 a number of Health Visitors and Managers from the Health Visiting service have reduced staffing levels in the Health Visiting service a revised service offer is in place until at least December 2020. To manage in these unprecedented times the 10 locality teams have temporarily merged into 4 CCG teams. Each team is operating a duty system from 9am until 4.30pm Mon-Fri and can be contacted on the numbers below. New Birth Visits continue to be offered in the home but all other reviews (including the 27mth review) will be undertaken by phone or video appointment. Due to the redeployment of staff, contact families receive, will not necessarily be with their named Health Visitor. Where appropriate and necessary home visits will also continue to be offered to support families with enhanced need.

In relation to 27 month reviews:

* 27month reviews continue to be offered remotely as opposed to face-to-face via NHS anywhere or where not possible via telephone for all universal families i.e. those with no concerns/Level 1 on the Continuum of Need.
* Once the 27mth review is completed, if the family are assessed as universal they will move from a named Health Visitor to a team caseload.
* Children with a Social Worker or Early Help Keyworker will only be visited where there is an identified unmet health need and/or as defined in CP plan. The allocated worker will be advised via email of HV not currently visiting and to contact named HV or HUB if a health need is identified.
* Looked after children placed with foster carers or prospective adopters- attendance at reviews and visits suspended unless Health Visitor actions are identified in the health plan. The allocated worker will be advised via email if the Health Visitor is not attending and to contact named Health Visitor or HUB if a health need is identified.
* Healthy Child Clinics and Henry 1-2-1 will both be cancelled until further notice  
  During this time we would encourage settings to continue to contact the Health Visiting HUBs (details below)
* HUB DETAILS (staffed from Mon –Fri 9am-4.30pm)  
    
  Uckfield: (Peacehaven, Lewes, Crowborough, Uckfield, Heathfield)  
  [esh-tr.hv-uckfield@nhs.net](mailto:esh-tr.hv-uckfield@nhs.net) 01323 464000  
    
  Eastbourne, Hailsham and Seaford:  
  [esht.hv-eastbourne@nhs.net](mailto:esht.hv-eastbourne@nhs.net) 01323 432300  
    
  Hastings and St Leonards:  
  [esh-tr.hv-hastings@nhs.net](mailto:esh-tr.hv-hastings@nhs.net) 01424 726446  
    
  Rother: (Bexhill, Rye, Battle, Ticehurst):  
  [esh-tr.hv-rural@nhs.net](mailto:esh-tr.hv-rural@nhs.net) 01424 723070

**Other checks for staff**

All our staffing ratios and certificates will be kept up to date as required, and where possible. Staff will have access to all online CPD at this time and kept abreast of any changes to policies and procedures. All staff at Mayfield Preschool have:

* Up to date and valid Paediatric First Aid certificates (due in September 2021)
* Full enhanced DBS checks
* Health Declarations
* Signed Pandemic Staff Agreements

During this time, it is important to note that our setting will continue to adhere to all government, DfE guidance and follow the principles as set out in the Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE 2020). Early years providers will continue to meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). We will also take heed of the **NSPCC Website** and use their resources to support families and staff CPD.

**Updated:** 23rd September 2020

**Manager:** Lauren Glasson **Signed:**

**Deputy Manager:** Paige Merrick **Signed:**

**Committee Chair:** Rebecca Morris **Signed:**