Walwayne Court School

Together we are stronger

EYFS Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Walwayne Court fully recognises its responsibilities for safeguarding and child protection.

Policy agreed (date):	**September 2026**
Policy published (including on website) **(date):**	**5th October 2026**
Next review (date):	**September 2027**

Key Safeguarding Personnel			
Role	**Name**	**Tel.**	**Email**
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Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	**Sharon Turley**	**01225 776886**	**head@walwaynecourt.wilts.sch.uk**
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Children's Social Care referrals: Integrated Front Door: 0300 456 0108	Out of hours: 0300 456 0100

If you believe a child is **at immediate risk** of significant harm or injury, you **must** call the police on 999.

Introduction

Walwayne Court is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. We will fulfil our local and national responsibilities as laid out in the following key documents:

- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2026)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2026)
- The procedures of the Safeguarding Vulnerable People Partnership (formerly WSCB)
- Information sharing - Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers (2024)

- All children have an equal right to protection, safeguarding and opportunities, regardless of their characteristics or circumstances.
- All adults, including staff, volunteers, owners and committee members share responsibility for safeguarding and must act on any concerns that a child may be at risk of harm.
- The setting will provide a safe, caring and supportive environment that promotes children's wellbeing and development.
- Appropriate support will be provided to children and staff involved in safeguarding concerns.

The aim of this policy is to ensure:

- all our children are safe and protected from harm.
- safeguarding procedures are in place to help children to feel safe and learn to stay safe.
- adults in the setting community are aware of the expected behaviours and the setting's legal responsibilities in relation to safeguarding and child protection.
- all staff understand their responsibility to safeguard children
- clear guidance on how to recognise and respond to concerns is provided
- children feel safe, valued, respected and listened to
- recognition that abuse can occur in families, communities and between children
- concerns are identified, recorded and acted upon promptly
- the promotion of effective communication within our setting and with external agencies
- early identification and intervention to prevent escalation
- safe recruitment practices are followed
- clear expectations for professional conduct and safe working practice

Scope

Safeguarding children is defined as:

- providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge
- protecting children from maltreatment, whether that is within or outside the home, including online
- preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

(Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026)

The term 'safeguarding children' covers a range of measures including child protection procedures. It encompasses a whole-setting preventative approach to keeping children safe.

Child protection is part of safeguarding and refers to the activity undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm. This includes harm occurring inside or outside the home, including online.

Consequently, this policy is consistent with all other policies adopted by the setting and should be read alongside the following policies relevant to the safety and welfare of our children:

- Online safety policy
- Artificial intelligence
- Behaviour policy, incl. use of mobile & smart technology and anti-bullying/child-on-child abuse
- Safer eating policy
- Staff Behaviour Policy
- Whistleblowing policy
- Complaints policy
- SEND policy
- Health and safety policy
- Medical conditions/allergies
- Equality Statement
- Administration of medicines.
- Emergency preparedness/critical incidents, lost child
- Intimate care policy

This policy applies to all staff in our setting. For the purposes of this policy:

- **Staff** refers to all adults working for or on behalf of the setting, including temporary staff, supply staff, volunteers and contractors, full-time or part-time, in a paid or regular voluntary capacity.
- **A volunteer** is a person who performs an activity that involves spending time unpaid in the setting.
- **Parent** refers to birth parents and other adults who are in a parenting role, for example step-parents, foster carers and adoptive parents.
- **Child** refers to all children on our setting roll. This includes unborn babies.

Any safeguarding concerns or disclosures of abuse relating to a child at the setting, outside of the setting and online are within the scope of this policy.

Expectations

Walwayne Court recognises that safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. We adopt a child-centered approach, ensuring that the best interests of the child are at the heart of all decision-making.

- We are committed to working in partnership with children, families and other agencies to provide help and support as soon as problems emerge and to protect children from harm, both within and outside the home, including online.
- We recognise the importance of a whole-family approach and actively involve parents, carers, and family networks wherever it is safe and appropriate to do so.
- We ensure that children's voices are heard and acted upon, and that all children are enabled to achieve the best possible outcomes.

Walwayne Court has an inclusive, anti-discriminatory culture where racism, and other forms of discriminatory behaviour are recognised, challenged and addressed as part of our safeguarding responsibilities.

This means:

- staff feel confident to raise concerns
- concerns are acted on quickly
- leaders provide clear oversight
- safeguarding is embedded in all aspects of setting life

Walwayne Court will:

- provide a safe and supportive environment
- encourage children to speak to trusted adults
- listen to children and take concerns seriously
- respond with empathy and understanding
- refer to appropriate support services where needed
- work with families and partner agencies
- share information appropriately to keep children safe • teach children how to stay safe, including online and in relationships
- support children's wellbeing, confidence and independence

Walwayne Court community will:

- create an environment where children feel safe to talk and be heard
- ensure all children know who they can go to for help
- gather and respond to the views of children, parents and staff
- embed safeguarding across the learning and development framework
- teach children about risk, safety, relationships and online awareness
- ensure clear guidance on the safe use of technology is understood

All staff are:

- familiar with this safeguarding policy and have an opportunity to contribute to its review.
- alert to signs and indicators of possible abuse and wider safeguarding issues.
- aware of the importance of professional curiosity.
- able to record and report concerns as set out in this policy.
- able to deal with a disclosure of abuse from a child.
- involved in the implementation of individual education programmes, integrated support plans, child in need plans and interagency child protection plans as required.
- are able to recognise that children may experience prejudice-based harm, including racism, faith-based prejudice, and other forms of discrimination. Staff understand such experiences may affect a child's welfare, wellbeing, mental health, and willingness to seek help. Staff are alert to the signs and impact of prejudice based harm and ensure that concerns are considered within safeguarding practice where appropriate.

A**ll staff** have read and understood the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements alongside Part 1 and Annex A of the latest version of Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE 2026).

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

The DSL will take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection
Key responsibilities include:

Managing referrals (the list below is not exhaustive)

- to Children's Social Care (Front Door)
- Police
- Channel (Prevent)
- Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

Working with others

- act as a point of contact for safeguarding agencies
- support staff with safeguarding concerns
- work with parents/carers appropriately
- contribute to multi-agency plans

Information management

- maintain secure, accurate child protection records
- ensure information is shared appropriately

Raising awareness

- ensure safeguarding policies are understood
- promote a strong safeguarding culture

Training and development

- maintain up-to-date knowledge
- ensure staff receive safeguarding updates

Supporting staff

- provide advice and guidance
- support staff dealing with safeguarding issues

Child-centred practice

- understand and reflect the views, wishes and experiences of children

The DSL will be available during setting hours and deputies trained to the same standard. To ensure continuity of safeguarding responsibilities, we implement robust cover arrangements for periods when the designated safeguarding lead is unavailable due to illness, leave, or other circumstances.

As key strategic decision makers and vision setters for the setting, the Headteacher will make sure that our policies and procedures are in line with national and local safeguarding requirements. The Headteacher will work with the EYFS lead to make sure the following safeguarding essentials are in place:

Training/Teaching	Policy/Procedures	Key safeguarding roles
Whole setting approach to broad and balanced curriculum embedding safeguarding teaching D/DSL training Designated teacher training KCSiE Part 1 for **all staff.** In addition Annex B and Part 5 for leaders and staff working directly with children. Staff training, including regular safeguarding updates Children taught about keeping safe online Online safety training for staff Preventing radicalisation Annual review of online safety arrangements	Child-on-child abuse child voice Online safety Artificial intelligence Whistleblowing Staff Behaviour Policy (for safer working practice), incl. low-level concerns about staff conduct Family Help Mental Health Medical conditions/allergies Multi-agency working Children with SEND and a physical health issue Reporting abuse, incl. dealing with a child at immediate risk / SVPP procedures Honour based abuse (HBA) Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Behaviour policy/anti-bullying Staff contribution to policy Safeguarding policy review Emergency Preparedness/critical incidents	Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who is a senior member of the leadership team. Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) Allergy lead

Concerns and allegations management

The Headteacher is responsible for liaising with the Local Authority Designated Officer for allegations (LADO) and other partner agencies in the event of an allegation of abuse being made against the manager.

See also 'Managing concerns and allegations against staff'.

Audit

The EYFS eadcollaborates with the Headteacher to complete an annual safeguarding audit return to the local authority.

Mandatory procedures – Staff and adults at our setting

Safer recruitment

All staff are subject to safer recruitment processes and checks, and we follow the guidance set out in both the welfare requirements (EYFS) and Part 3 of KCSiE (2026).
At Walwayne Court we scrutinise all applications for paid or voluntary posts. We undertake interviews and make appropriate checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). We maintain a single central record (SCR) of essential checks and certificates obtained.

Assurances are sought for contractors who are required on site, including identification checks on arrival. Appropriate vetting checks are carried out by the setting for self-employed individuals.

We will not allow anyone to start working or volunteering in a regulated activity with children in EYFS until their suitability has been checked. This includes obtaining an enhanced DBS plus barred list check.

Visitors

All visitors complete a signing in/out process, wear a setting ID badge and are provided with key safeguarding information including the contact details of safeguarding personnel in the setting.

Scheduled visitors in a professional role (e.g. fire officer, police, NSPCC staff) are asked to provide evidence of their role and employment details (usually an identity badge) upon arrival at the setting. Careful consideration is given to the suitability of any external organisations. We complete an assessment of the education value, the age appropriateness of what is going to be delivered by the scheduled visitor prior to booking a visit.

If the visit is unscheduled and the visitor is unknown to the setting, we will contact the relevant organisation to verify the individual's identity, if necessary.

Site and environment safety

Risk assessments are undertaken and maintained in accordance with the setting's health and safety policy; our first aid risk assessment informs the setting's first aid training requirements. We follow all first aid, staffing ratios and floor space requirements as per the safeguarding and welfare requirements (EYFS). The setting ensures that when our premises are hired or rented to other organisations (ASC, evening and weekend clubs) including shared site providers who work with children, those organisations adhere to the guidance for out-of-school settings. We tell Ofsted of any changes listed as a notification requirement within the safeguarding and welfare requirements.

We follow indoor space requirements set out in the EYFS, and ensure that children have daily access to an outdoor area.

We abide by safer eating (including weaning) principles of the EYFS safeguarding and welfare requirements; we ensure a paediatric member of staff supervises snack and mealtimes and is always in sight and hearing of children eating. As per Benedict's Law we obtain information about allergies and intolerances before admittance and produce allergy action plans. Food is prepared in an area adequately equipped; food hygiene training is maintained, and we inform Ofsted of any incidents of food poisoning. Food is prepared in a way that prevents choking in accordance with the government's food safety guidance. Choking incidents requiring intervention are recorded and parents made aware the same day. Fresh drinking water is always available and accessible to children.

We provide adequate toilets and hand basins. We follow our intimate care policy regarding toilet training and nappy changing, balancing children's privacy with safeguarding children and adults.

We maintain comprehensive emergency preparedness plans to respond to emergencies and critical incidents, in line with the requirements of Martyn's Law and Benedict's Law. These plans include procedures for evacuation to an alternative premises, invacuation to a designated safe internal area, lockdown arrangements, and the management of anaphylaxis in accordance with the setting's allergy policy. Regular practice drills are conducted to ensure staff and children are familiar with emergency procedures and can respond effectively.

Child absconding/missing from site

Any incident where a child leaves the site without permission, leaves staff supervision, or where their whereabouts become unknown will be treated as a safeguarding incident. The manager will be informed immediately, a search of the grounds should be undertaken, police and parents/carers contacted within 10 minutes of a child going missing. Any incidents will be recorded as safeguarding, reviewed and used to inform future risk assessment and safeguarding planning.

Off site visits

We carry out a risk assessment prior to any off-site visit and designate the specific roles and responsibilities of each adult, whether employed or volunteers. A site visit is also completed. Where safeguarding concerns arise, the setting will immediately review, and terminate, if necessary, unless or until those concerns have been satisfactorily addressed.

Where there are safeguarding concerns or allegations that happen offsite, staff will follow the procedures described above and in the SVPP flowcharts as appropriate. A copy of the flowcharts is taken on off-site visits for reference.

Collection arrangements

We follow our vetting protocol where the person collecting is not recognised or logged as permission to collect.

Staff Behaviour Policy (for safer working practice)

Walwayne Court is committed to positive academic, social and emotional outcomes for our children underpinned by a strong safeguarding ethos. We are equally committed to the protection and welfare of our staff, who are expected to adhere to the highest standards of professional behaviour.

The Staff Behaviour Policy sets out staff behaviours that should be avoided as well as those that constitute safe practice and supports our commitment to safeguarding children.

We do not give or threaten corporal punishment or any punishment which could negatively affect a child's well-being.

Identifying the signs

All staff know how to recognise and are alert to the signs of neglect, abuse, exploitation, and wider safeguarding issues, including but not limited to child-on-child sexual violence and harassment, child-on-child abuse, and ‘all’ risks of harm outside of the home and within the local area including online. Definitions of abuse, set out in 'What to do if you’re worried a child is being abused - Advice for practitioners’ (2015), 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (2026) along with notes from safeguarding training, are important reference documents for all staff.

Responding to concerns/disclosures of abuse

Flowcharts provided by Wiltshire Council Safeguarding Team and SVPP that set out the required procedure for staff to follow when they have a safeguarding concern about a child are displayed around the building.

Staff adhere to the organisation’s safeguarding training requirements when concerned about abuse or when responding to a disclosure of abuse. Staff understand that they must NOT:

- take photographs of any injuries.
- postpone or delay the opportunity for the child to talk.
- take notes while the child is speaking or ask the child to write an account.
- try to investigate the allegation.
- promise confidentiality e.g. say they will keep ‘the secret’.
- approach or inform the alleged abuser.

All staff record any concern about or disclosure by a child of abuse or neglect and report this to the D/DSL using the standard form. It is the responsibility of each adult in our setting to ensure that the D/DSL

receives the record of concern without delay. In the absence of the D/DSL, staff members know to speak directly to the IFD In some circumstances, the D/DSL or member of staff seeks advice by ringing the IFD for advice.

The D/DSL will liaise with safeguarding partners and work with other agencies in line with Working Together (2026).

The D/DSL will provide as much information as possible as part of the referral process. This will allow any assessment to consider all the available evidence and enable a contextual approach to address such harm.

The D/DSL consistently monitors all children with concerns, whether a request for service to the Wiltshire IFD or appropriate Local Authority Children's Services has been made or not.

During operating hours, the DSL and/or a DDSL is always available during setting hours for staff to discuss any safeguarding concerns. The D/DSL provides feedback to any staff who share concern/s.

The voice of the child is central to our safeguarding practice and children are encouraged to express and have their views given due weight in all matters affecting them in an age appropriate way.

Online safety and Artificial intelligence (AI) Please see separate policies

These must include:

- use of devices
- camera usage
- image consent
- social media
- staff mobile phones
- filtering and monitoring arrangements
- AI use expectations

Online safety is a running and interrelated theme which is reflected in our policies and procedures. Children are taught about safeguarding, including online safety and artificial intelligence using the 4 Cs as a basis. Online safety is considered as part of our whole setting safeguarding approach and wider staff training (including at induction). A personalised or contextualised approach is taken for more vulnerable children, victims of abuse and some children with SEND. As per the setting's AI policy staff may use AI as a tool to support their work, but remain accountable for all content, decisions and actions. AI must never replace professional judgement, compromise confidentiality, or be used in a way that places children at risk.

Parents and carers are offered advice and guidance in support of identifying the risks that may be present to children online.

Walwayne Courtis a mobile phone-free environment by default. Children must not have access to a mobile phone throughout the day. Screen time within the learning and development framework is limited.

The setting has regard for the DFE Filtering and Monitoring standards, and the Cyber Security Standards set out in KCSiE (2026). Our online safety mechanisms are reviewed at least once every academic year.

Managing concerns and allegations against staff (including volunteers and contractors, and those from organisations or individuals using the premises)

Walwayne Court follows the procedure set out by the SVPP 'Allegations against adults' flowchart which is displayed in the staffroom and adult cloakrooms for easy reference.

Where anyone in the setting has a concern about the behaviour of an adult (including online) who works or volunteers at the setting, they must immediately consult the manager who will refer to the Local Authority Designated Officer for allegations (LADO).

Any concern or allegation against the EYFS lead will be reported to the Headteacher.

All staff must remember that the welfare of a child is paramount and must not delay raising concerns for fear a report could jeopardise their colleague's career. Walwayne Court promotes an open and transparent culture in which all concerns about adults working in or on behalf of the setting (including volunteers and contractors) are dealt with promptly and appropriately.

Any allegation of abuse will be dealt with in a fair and consistent way that provides effective protection for the child and at the same time supports the person who is the subject of the allegation.

In addition to the concern/allegation management process, the setting's DSL will also refer suspected abuse to the Wiltshire IFD or appropriate Local Authority Children's services as described in 'responding to a concern.'

All members of staff and volunteers have read and signed to confirm they have understood the setting's Staff Behaviour Policy (for safer working practice), all contractors are made aware of expectations of their behaviour.

Concerns and allegations reported relating to supply staff and contractors will be notified to their employers for investigation and potential referral to LADO.

Walwayne Court will appoint a 'case manager' to lead any investigation where the reported allegation does not meet the allegations threshold to consider a referral to the LADO. We will inform Ofsted of any allegations of harm on the premises within 14 days.

Managing low-level concerns about staff members (including volunteers, and contractors).

Walwayne Court operates a 'low-level' concerns policy in accordance with KCSIE. 'Low-level' refers to behaviour that is: inconsistent with expectations set out in the Staff Behaviour Policy, including inappropriate conduct outside of work, and/or does not meet the allegations threshold, or is otherwise not considered serious enough to consider a referral to the LADO.

All low-level concerns will be reported to theEYFS lead; low-level concerns about theEYFS lead will be reported to the Headteacher.

The setting will:

- ensure all staff are clear about what appropriate behaviour is (as set out in the Staff Behaviour Policy), and are confident in distinguishing expected and appropriate behaviour from concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour, in themselves and others;
- empower staff to share any low-level safeguarding concerns;
- provide a responsive, sensitive and proportionate handling of such concerns when they are raised, for both the child/ren and the adult; and,
- respond to reports of low-level concerns in accordance with our HR conduct procedures by addressing unprofessional behaviour and support the individual to correct it at an early stage. If the concern has been raised via a third party, the manager will collect as much evidence as possible by speaking:
    - directly to the person who raised the concern, unless it has been raised anonymously;
    - to the individual involved and any witnesses.

Reporting low-level concerns helps to create and embed a culture of openness, trust and transparency in which the setting's values and expected behaviour are constantly lived, monitored and reinforced by all staff.

Staff are encouraged to self-refer where they have found themselves in a situation which could be misinterpreted, might appear compromising to others, and/or on reflection they believe they have behaved in such a way that they consider falls below the expected professional standards.

All low-level concerns will be recorded in writing, retained and reviewed to help recognise any weakness in the setting's safeguarding system so that potential patterns of concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour can be identified.

Whistleblowing

In accordance with our setting's whistleblowing policy and procedures all staff can raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in the setting's safeguarding regime. Our whistleblowing procedures which are also reflected in staff training and our staff behaviour policy are in place for such concerns to be raised with the manager. Systems are in place and well promoted so that older children can confidently report concerns or abuse, knowing their concerns will be treated seriously, and knowing they can safely express their views and give feedback.

If a staff member feels unable to raise an issue with EYFS lead or feels that their genuine concerns are not being addressed, other whistleblowing channels are open to them:

- The NSPCC whistleblowing helpline
  Staff can call: 0800 028 0285 from 08:00 to 20:00, Monday to Friday, or email help@nspcc.org.uk.
- The Headteacher or the Chair of Governors.

Escalation of concerns

Effective working together depends on an open approach and honest relationships between colleagues and between agencies.

Staff must be confident and able to professionally disagree and challenge decision-making as an entirely legitimate activity; a part of our professional responsibility to promote the best safeguarding practice. Staff are encouraged to press for re-consideration if they believe a decision to act/not act in response to a concern raised about a child is wrong. In such cases the SVPP Case Resolution Protocol is used if necessary.

If we are on the receiving end of a professional challenge, we see this as an opportunity to reflect on our decision making.

Record keeping and information sharing

The setting:

- liaises with partner organisations to ensure any safeguarding records for learners are shared on transition within the first 5 days:
  - by the setting previously attended by the child.
  - by our DSL when the child leaves our setting.

- evaluates the information received to determine whether a risk assessment is required and identifies any specific risks relevant to the forwarding provision.

  For any child dual-registered with another provider, the setting continues to be responsible for the safeguarding of the child thus the DSL will regularly liaise with the DSL at that base to ensure information is shared in the child's best interests.

- keeps clear and comprehensive written records of all child safeguarding and child protection concerns usingCPOMS, with a body map, including how the concern was followed up and resolved as well as a note of any action taken, decisions reached and the outcome. This should include instances where referrals ere or were not made to another agency such as LA children's social care or the Prevent program, etc.

- ensures the records incorporate the wishes and views of verbal children.

The D/DSL acts in accordance with Information Sharing – Department for Education (DfE) (May 2024) and in line with the Wiltshire Council Record Keeping Guidance which includes details about file retention.

Information about children at risk of harm is shared with members of staff in keeping with the seven golden rules to sharing information in the DfE guidance.

We are committed to work in partnership with parents and carers. In most situations, we will discuss initial concerns with them. However, the D/DSL will not share information where there are concerns that if so doing would:

- place a child at increased risk of significant harm
- place an adult at increased risk of serious harm
- prejudice the prevention, detection or prosecution of a serious crime
- lead to unjustified delay in making enquiries about allegations of significant harm to a child, or serious harm to an adult.

When we become aware that a child is being privately fostered, we remind the carer/parent of their legal duty to notify Wiltshire Children's Social Care. We follow this up by contacting Children's Social Care directly.

Mandatory procedures – Supporting children

A culture of listening to children

We have a whole setting approach to listening to children and have systems in place which create an environment where children feel safe to share their concerns and worries and know they will be taken seriously. These systems operate with the best interests of the child at their heart.

We regularly carry out child voice activities through:

- observations
- key person discussions
- behaviour and communication cues
- family contributions
- visual choice systems

this data informs our practice and policies.

Teaching children about safeguarding

We provide opportunities for children to develop skills, concepts, attitudes and knowledge that promote their safety, and well-being. We provide a foundation towards children's understanding of:

- Developing child self-esteem and communication skills
- Developing strategies for self-protection including online safety
- Developing a sense of the boundaries between appropriate and inappropriate behaviour in adults and within peer relationships.

Family help

At Walwayne Court, all our staff can identify children who may benefit from family help as a problem emerges and discuss this with the D/DSL. Staff will identify children and families who may benefit from early intervention and will work with the DSL to initiate appropriate support, including the use of family help assessments and multi-agency planning. Family help aims to prevent escalation of need and improve outcomes for children by addressing concerns at the earliest possible stage. Walwayne Court recognises that some children may have additional vulnerabilities due to e.g. specific need, previous childhood trauma and staff will always be professionally curious and approach such situations in a relational manner. Seeking to identify the child and family's needs and strengths to improve safeguarding outcomes and lived experience.

Staff must be particularly alert to the potential need for family help for a child who:

- Is disabled and has specific additional needs.
- Has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory education, health and care plan).
- Is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as substance abuse, adult mental health problems or domestic abuse.
- Has returned home to their family from care.
- Is showing early signs of abuse and/or neglect and/or exploitation.
- Is a privately fostered child.
- Has an imprisoned parent.
- Is experiencing mental health, wellbeing difficulties.
- Is persistently absent (including persistently absent for part of the day).
- Is at risk of 'honour' based abuse such as FGM or forced marriage.

(T*his list is not exhaustive*)

The D/DSL uses:

- The Wiltshire's Integrated Front Door (MASH and Early Support Hub).
- The Multi-Agency Thresholds guidance for Safeguarding Children on the Safeguarding Vulnerable People Partnership (SVPP) website about suitable action to take when a child has been identified as making inadequate progress or having an unmet need.
- Liaises with Wiltshire SEND service
- Various resources to identify and respond to harmful sexual behaviour

Children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) or physical health issues

Children with additional needs or certain health conditions face an increased risk of abuse and neglect. Staff take extra care to interpret correctly apparent signs of abuse or neglect. We never assume that behaviour, mood or injury relates to the child's additional needs without further exploration. Staff understand that additional challenges can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in children with SEND, including communication barriers. Staff recognise that children with SEND are also at a higher risk of peer group isolation and can be disproportionately affected by bullying (including prejudiced-based bullying).

To address those additional challenges, extra pastoral support is considered for children with SEND or physical health issues and they are also encouraged to discuss their concerns. The D/DSL works with the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) to identify children with additional communication needs and whenever possible, these children are given the chance to express themselves to a member of staff with appropriate communication skills.

Restrictive interventions

Walwayne Court follows requirements set out in the EYFS. Any incident involving the use of restrictive intervention must be recorded and reported.

There are circumstances when it is appropriate for staff to use reasonable force to safeguard children. The term 'reasonable force' covers the broad range of actions used by staff that involve a degree of physical contact to control or restrain children. This can range from guiding a child to safety by the arm, to more extreme circumstances such as breaking up a fight or where a young person needs to be restrained to prevent violence or injury. 'Reasonable' in these circumstances means 'using no more force than is needed'. The use of force may involve either passive physical contact, such as standing between children or blocking a child's path, or active physical contact such as leading a child by the arm out of the classroom.

All staff follow the setting's behaviour policy, and all children are encouraged to follow these expectations to reduce the need for the 'use of reasonable force.' Staff will work in collaboration with children and parents/carers to plan positive, proactive behaviour support which may include support plans, referral to specialist agencies and agreeing actions to reduce the occurrence of challenging behaviour.

Where a child is experiencing high levels of emotional or behavioural dysregulation seclusion may be used as a safety measure to protect others from harm. The child must be always supervised during the period of seclusion. As soon as the immediate risk of harm has reduced, the child should be allowed to leave. Seclusion is not a disciplinary response to deliberate or wilful misbehaviour. There are disciplinary measures that are similar, such as removal from the classroom. Staff should refer to the setting's behaviour policy.

Incidents must be recorded as soon as practicable after the event. It should be recorded by the staff member(s) involved and they should endeavour to do this no later than the same day. A robust risk assessment, and where relevant, a physical intervention plan is always put in place and reviewed regularly.

Mandatory procedures – Specific forms of abuse and safeguarding issues

Child-on-child abuse (including harassment, violence and misogyny)

All children have a right to attend childcare and learn in a safe environment. All child-on-child abuse is unacceptable and will be taken seriously.
In addition, we have a zero-tolerance approach and will respond to all reports and concerns of child-on-child sexualised incidents. Child-on-child abuse is not tolerated, passed off as "banter" or seen as "part of growing up". The different forms of child-on-child abuse is likely to include, but not limited to:

- bullying (including cyber bullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying)
- discriminatory behaviour, including racism, faith-targeted abuse, and other prejudice based incidents,
- abuse in intimate personal relationships between peers (teenage relationship abuse)
- physical abuse which can include hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling or otherwise causing physical harm
- physical assault and harm, or the threat of harm with a weapon
- harmful sexual behaviour, sexual violence and sexual harassment – which may include misogyny/misandry.
- consensual and non-consensual making or sharing of nudes and semi nudes, including those generated using AI
- Upskirting, which typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without their permission, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress, or alarm.
- causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent.
- initiation/hazing type violence and rituals.

Consequently, child-on-child abuse is dealt with as a safeguarding issue, recorded as such, and not managed through the systems set out in the setting's behaviour policy.

Child-on-child abuse is safeguarding issue for both victim and alleged perpetrator. Any child who may have been victimised and/or displayed such harmful behaviours, along with any other child affected by child-on-child abuse, including the alleged perpetrator will be supported.

We will address inappropriate behaviour (even if it appears to be relatively innocuous) as this can be an important intervention that may help prevent problematic, abusive and/or violent behaviour in the future.

We acknowledge that even if there are no reported cases of child-on-child abuse, such abuse may still be taking place and is simply not being reported. Staff maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' where safeguarding is concerned.

We minimise the risk of child-on-child abuse by providing:

- a relevant, effective learning and development framework that helps children to develop their understanding of acceptable behaviours, healthy relationships and keeping themselves safe.
- established/publicised systems for verbal children to raise concerns with staff, knowing they will be listened to, supported and valued, and that the issues they raise will be taken seriously.

- staff are trained to observe unusual behaviours.
- training to all staff so they understand that child-on-child abuse can and does happen and are trained to be alert to any behaviours that could cause concern.
- a clear procedure for all staff to report all incidents as a safeguarding concern to the setting D/DSL.

Children who are absent

Children who do not attend regularly can be at increased risk of abuse and neglect. Where there is unexplained absence, and

- after reasonable attempts have been made to contact the family without success, the DSL follows the SVPP procedure and consults/refers to the IFD team as appropriate.

Mental health

All staff are aware that mental health problems can be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Staff understand that:

- abuse and neglect, or other potentially traumatic adverse childhood experiences can have a lasting impact throughout childhood, adolescence and into adulthood. Staff are aware of how
- these experiences can impact on children's mental health, behaviour and education.
- they have a duty to observe children day-to-day and identify those whose behaviour suggests that they may be experiencing a mental health problem or be at risk of developing one.

Domestic abuse

Staff understand that domestic abuse is any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass but is not limited to: psychological; physical; sexual; financial; and emotional harm, including where they see, hear or experience its effects.

The DSL liaises with partner agencies as part of 'Operation Encompass' in Wiltshire. When police are called to an incident of domestic abuse, where there are children in the household who have experienced the domestic incident, the DSL ensures the organisation receives up to date relevant information about the child's circumstances and will ensure key staff provide emotional and practical support to the child according to their needs.

Preventing radicalisation

Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is part of setting's wider safeguarding duties and is similar in nature to protecting children from other forms of harm and abuse. We use risk assessment as per the prevent duty to identify, understand and manage the risk of children being drawn into terrorism or extremist ideologies. Staff use their judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and speak to the D/DSL if they are concerned about a child. The D/DSL will always act proportionately, and this may include making a Prevent referral to the Channel support programme or to the Local Authority Children's Services.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

FGM is illegal in the UK and a form of child abuse with long-lasting harmful consequences. Staff will inform the D/DSL immediately if they suspect a girl is at risk of FGM. We will report to the police any 'known' cases of FGM to the police as required by law.

Staff training

Induction

The welfare of all our children is of paramount importance. All staff including regular volunteers are informed of our safeguarding policy and procedures at induction.

Our written induction schedule for staff also includes:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection policy and procedures
- Online safety
- KCSiE update
- EYFS Welfare requirements
- Whistleblowing policy
- Behaviour Policy (children)
- Staff Behaviour Policy (or Code of Conduct)
- Role and identities of the DSL and DDSL
- The setting's response to children who are absent
- Procedure to follow in case of an allegation being raised against an adult
- Professional disagreement and escalation including the SVPP Case Resolution Protocol

Safeguarding training

This training is for all staff and is updated every 3 years as a minimum to ensure staff understand their role in safeguarding. Any member of staff who is not present at this whole setting session will undertake this statutory training requirement on their return.

In addition, all staff members receive safeguarding and child protection updates (for example, via email, e-bulletins, staff meetings) as necessary and at least annually.

Advanced training

The D/DSL has additional multi agency training which is updated every two years as a minimum. The D/DSL also attend needs-led multi-agency courses. Their knowledge and skills are refreshed at least annually e.g. via e-bulletins or safeguarding networking events with other D/DSLs. The D/DSL attend a Wiltshire IFD tour.

Safer Recruitment

At least one person on any appointment panel has undertaken safer recruitment training as per safer recruitment guidelines. This training is updated every 3 years in accordance with Wiltshire recommended protocol.

Preventing Radicalisation

As per the Prevent duty:

- All staff undertake Prevent awareness training.
- The DSL attends more in-depth training including ideologies, prevent referrals and channel awareness.

Staff and parent support

Due to the demanding, often distressing nature of child protection work, we support staff by providing an opportunity to talk through the challenges of this aspect of their role with a senior leader and to seek further support as appropriate. Staff receive supervision sessions, and we ensure that staff take breaks away from children in accordance with the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements.

We provide somewhere to talk confidentially (EYFS).

Appendix 1
Related legislation and key documents

Children Act 1989 (and update 2004): The Children Act 1989 gives every child the right to protection from abuse and exploitation and the right to have enquires made to safeguard his or her welfare. The Act place duties on several agencies, to assist Social Services departments acting on behalf of children and young people in need (s17) or enquiring into allegations of child abuse (s47).

Sexual Offences Act 2003 - This act sets out an offence of 'abuse of trust' - a sexual or otherwise inappropriate relationship between an adult who is responsible for young people and a young person in his/her care.

Information Sharing – Department for Education (DfE) Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers 2024 This advice is for all frontline practitioners and senior managers working with children, young people, parents and carers who have to make decisions about sharing personal information on a case by case basis.

Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (the CTSA 2015), section 26 requires all schools and childcare settings, in the exercise of their functions, to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". This duty is known as the Prevent duty.

Preventing and Tackling Bullying (2017) Advice on effectively preventing and tackling bullying.

The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act (2025)- Martyn's Law ensures the public are better protected from terrorism.

Benedict's Law (Children's wellbeing and school's Bill) mandatory allergy safety protections in England for effective from September 2026.

The Childcare Act (2006/2016) Childcare Act 2016 establishes the legal framework for early years provision, local authority duties, and free childcare entitlements in England.

Safer Recruitment: Safer Working Practices Policy Framework- sets out duties, rules and general guidance on safer recruitment process requirements.