



Boogie n Bath

CHILD PROTECTION & SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Last reviewed:
2-1-2023

Boogie n Bath Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

This policy applies to staff and volunteers working with Boogie n Bath students. The policy is in accordance with the procedures of the Bath and North East Somerset Community Safety and Safeguarding Partnership.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children includes protecting children from maltreatment and ensuring they are able to grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care. Action will be taken to ensure all children have the best outcomes. 'Children' includes everyone in Boogie n Bath under the age of 18.

Where a child is suffering significant harm, or is likely to do so, due to the behaviour of adults, immediate action will be taken to protect the child. This action may be promoted by allegations against both employees and non-employees. Action will also be taken to promote the welfare of a child in need of additional support, even if they are not suffering harm or at immediate risk.

Where there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm due to abuse by one or more pupils, a referral will be made to children's services. In all circumstances the welfare of all children concerned will be the first priority. In the event of disclosures about peer-on-peer abuse, all children involved it will be treated as 'at risk' and will be supported appropriately.

There are five main elements to the policy:

1. Establishing a safe environment in which students can learn and develop.
2. Ensuring the governance of safeguarding and promotion of welfare is fully embedded within Boogie n Bath.
3. Raising awareness of child protection issues and ensuring staff and volunteers are aware of presenting issues and how to act in the event of concerns being raised.
4. Ensuring staff recruitment practice is safe and accords with the requirements of the government.
5. Supporting students who are in need of protection or require additional help.

Identifying abuse:

Through their weekly contact with students, Boogie n Bath staff are well placed to observe signs that a child may be suffering, is likely to suffer significant harm, or is in need of additional support to promote their welfare. Boogie n Bath will therefore:

- Establish and maintain an environment where pupils feel secure, are encouraged to talk and are listened to;
- Ensure students know they can approach any teacher if they are worried or concerned about themselves or others;

Boogie n Bath staff have been trained and are able to recognize signs of the following types of abuse:

- General abuse
- Domestic abuse/violence
- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse

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- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Child Criminal Exploitation
- County Lines
- Neglect

Mental Health:

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

If staff have a concern about a child's mental health which is also a safeguarding concern, immediate action should be taken, following our child protection policy.

Specific Safeguarding Issues:

Staff must also be alert to the impact of bullying, cyber bullying, and behaviours that may place individual children at risk of serious harm, including children who frequently miss classes. Peer-on-peer allegations of abuse may include sexting, banter, sexual assaults, and gender based issues and these will be reported to local agencies as appropriate. In the event of disclosures about peer-on-peer abuse all children involved, where the perpetrator or victim, will be treated as being 'at risk'. Advice and support would be taken from local agencies about how to best support all parties.

It's important to note that the production and distribution of sexting images involving anyone under the age of 18 is illegal and needs very careful management for all those involved.

It is recognised that there is difficulty monitoring usage through 3G, 4G, and 5G networks. Boogie n Bath seeks to support the appropriate and safe use of technology and where it is felt that a phone or mobile device is being used inappropriately, the student will be supported accordingly. Staff will only communicate using technology with parents and will not be in direct contact with students under the age of 18 through mobile devices.

As with managing other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. Staff should use their professional judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalization and act proportionately.

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

The Designated Safeguarding Lead at Boogie n Bath is Sharon Abrahams.

(sharonabrahams3@yahoo.co.uk)

The Designated Deputy Safeguarding lead at Boogie n Bath is Michelle Pentecost.

(michelle_pentecost@yahoo.co.uk)

Reporting concerns about a child:

All adults have a duty to safeguard the welfare of students. If any member of staff or volunteer has a concern that a child may be suffering significant harm, is likely to suffer significant harm, or is in need

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of additional support promote their welfare, the member of staff or volunteer must contact with Boogie n Bath's DSL immediately. If necessary the DSL will seek advice from local authorities.

All parties should note the importance of children receiving the right help at the right time to address risks and prevent issues escalating. Early referral of signs of abuse, neglect and radicalization is emphasised. Clear records must be kept, the child must be listened to and concerns reassessed if the situation does not improve. It's important to share information quickly and challenge in action.

Guidance in handling concerns raised by children:

1. Limit any questioning to a minimum to seek clarification only, strictly avoiding 'leading' the pupil or adult who has approached you by making suggestions or asking questions that introduce your own ideas about what may have occurred.
2. Stop asking questions as soon as the pupil or adult has disclosed that they believe something abusive has happened to the pupil or to someone else.
3. Tell the pupil or adult that you will now make sure the appropriate people are brought in to follow the problem through.
4. Try to ascertain the wishes and feelings of the pupil or adult at this point if appropriate, but remember that what they want to happen may not be possible.
5. Do not promise confidentiality.
6. Refer the matter immediately, with all relevant details, to the DSL.
7. Make an accurate written record of what you have been told as soon as possible, and notify the DSL.

Allegations of abuse made against teachers, staff and volunteers working with children:

Where it is alleged that a teacher, member of staff, or volunteer has behaved in a way that has; harmed a child, or may have harmed a child; possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she may pose the risk of harm to children; or behaved, or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children, then the matter must be reported immediately to the DSL.

The DSL must then, without delay, contact the local authorities to discuss their concerns. Where a child has suffered serious harm the police must be contacted from the outset. If the allegations concern the DSL then the deputy DSL must create an initial report.

Where a member of staff or volunteer is deemed to be unsuitable to work with children a prompt report will be made to the Disclosure and Barring service where DBS referral criteria are met, that is they have caused harm or posed a risk of harm to a child.

Staff recruitment and vetting policy:

Boogie n Bath carries out recruitment, selection and pre-employment vetting checks and ensures all staff have up to date DBS checks. Our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy is provided to all staff and they are requested to read and acknowledge this.