



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN-CHILD PROTECTION A-Z

(A-Z of terms and explanations to aid Knowledge and Understanding for all)

EVERYBODY'S RESPONSIBILITY

Managers-Carers-Parents-Guardians-Whole Community

Here at the Oxford Nursery we talk every day about protecting children or 'Safeguarding', as it is known professionally; protecting children from harm in the broadest sense and in all ways is our prime concern. We listen to a range of responses to the question 'What is Safeguarding?' in our Recruitment Induction training.....

Here are some common initial responses and an insight to levels of understanding that we find in our Recruitment Induction Sessions

Trainer: "So...what is Safeguarding Children, Child Protection or just Safeguarding?"

Trainee: "It's about stopping children from putting their hands in an electrical socket. Or keeping them safe from strangers".

Trainee: "It is keeping children safe when crossing the road"

Trainee: "Child protection is keeping children safe from getting lost in a busy shopping mall"

Trainee "Keeping children safe means stopping a barking dog from chasing or biting a child"

Trainee: "Safeguarding children means not smacking a child"

Yes! These are all aspects of safeguarding children but this subject is so much more and many of us in our busy lives have not had the opportunity to consider the wider responsibility of keeping all children safe and protected from harm in whatever form that takes. This booklet of A-Z Safeguarding will seek to keep us all informed and have a greater understanding of our responsibility to protect children from harm.

We identify and learn about the different types of abuse in our training sessions and in our day to day duty of care. We attend a minimum of 3 Safeguarding refresher training sessions per year and engage in daily briefings covering a range of topics to give us all discussion opportunity to keep this important subject integral to our daily lives.

The areas of abuse are:

Physical-Emotional-Sexual-Neglect-Bullying

Here are terms used within these abuse areas that may be unfamiliar and may need explanation with additional educational terms that made be used in response to keeping children safe.

A-Z Safeguarding Terms

A

Accountability

Accountability in a nursery setting involves educators taking responsibility for their actions, ensuring child safety and quality practice, while also teaching children ownership through clear routines, choices, and consequences, fostering trust with parents via open communication, and upholding ethical standards to support holistic child development, not just blame. It's a shared responsibility among staff, leaders, and families, focusing on creating a culture of improvement, well-being, and learning.

Affluent Neglect

Affluent Neglect refers to children who are neglected, usually emotionally, by wealthy parents and/or carers.

Allegation of Abuse

When an individual has been accused, verbally or in writing, of abusing someone.

Antisocial behaviour (ASB)

Behaviour that can cause alarm or distress to someone of another household. Antisocial behaviour can include: misuse of public space (e.g. drug misuse and dealing), disregard for community/personal well being (e.g. following people), acts directed at people and environmental damage (e.g.fly tipping).

Anxiety

Anxiety is a feeling of unease, such as worry or fear, that can be mild or severe. Some find it harder to control their worries. Their feelings of anxiety are more constant and can often affect their daily lives .

Arranged Marriage

A marriage where the partner selection is under guardianship and is the decision of older family members or marital agents of those who wish to get married.

Attendance Issues

When a child has irregular and sporadic attendance including patterned absences at the educational/childcare setting they are attending. Attendance issues, especially unexplained absences, can be a sign of safeguarding concerns. We have a LEGAL (required by OFSTED) duty of care to mark your child present or absent from nursery and note reasons for any absences so that we know your child is accounted for and safe at all times. We use FAMILY to note or authorise your child's arrival and departure times and confirm attendance or absence. We make a notes of doctor visits as well as all occasional short departures and returns for a variety of reasons eg school visits, dentist or other external appointments.

B

Behaviour Changes

When a child noticeably changes their behaviour it can be a sign of safeguarding concerns. For example, they stop spending time with their friends and isolate themselves when they were previously very sociable.

Breast Ironing

Breast ironing/flattening is when young girls' breasts are damaged in order to delay their development. The abuser is under the incorrect impression that doing so will help the child by making them appear less 'womanly' and protect them from sexual assault and early forced marriage. Breast Ironing is a form of child abuse.

British Values

There are five fundamental British Values: democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs. They are intended to help prepare young people for life in modern Britain and form an important element in safeguarding children, as they intend to help prevent extremism and radicalisation.

Bruising

Any injury or mark when the skin is darker in colour but not broken. Often due to being hit or bumping into something. Bruising is one of the most common injuries to see when a child has been physically abused. It's important to note the area of the body that is bruised as this is the biggest differentiator between abusive and non abusive bruises. Common body regions associated with abuse are the cheeks, the back and the ears.

Bullying

Bullying can include behaviour that is repeated, intended to hurt someone either physically or emotionally and is often aimed at certain groups, for example because of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation. It can take many forms including physical assault, teasing, making threats, name calling and cyberbullying.

Burning and Scalding

Damage to the skin is typically caused by heat. A burn is caused by dry heat, e.g. an iron, while a scald is caused by something wet, e.g. hot water or steam. Scald burns are the more common burn type for children that have been abused and the most common cause is tap water.

C

CAF (Common Assessment Framework)

A standardised approach for the assessment of children and their families, to facilitate the early identification of additional needs and to promote a coordinated service response. Designed for use by all professionals working with children and families with additional needs, but who do not meet the threshold for more intensive interventions like those associated with children's social care.

CAFCASS (Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service)

CAFCASS represents children in family court cases in England. They independently advise the family courts about what is safe for children and in their best interests, putting their needs, wishes and feelings first, making sure that children's voices are heard.

CAIU (Child Abuse Investigation Unit)

CAIU is the unit in the UK police force that is responsible for child abuse investigations.

Calling Something Out

Calling something out in a nursery setting regarding safeguarding means promptly reporting concerns about a child's welfare or an adult's inappropriate behaviour to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), following the nursery's policy, and knowing when to escalate to external agencies like police or local authorities, as even low-level concerns need addressing to prevent escalation. It involves documenting observations, understanding types of harm, and acting within legal frameworks (like [UK GDPR](#)) to protect children, even if it means sharing information without parental consent in serious cases.

CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services)/ CYPMHS (Children and Young People's Mental Health Services)

A free service run by the NHS that supports children and young people who have difficulties with their emotional or behavioural well being. CAMHS teams include nurses, therapists, psychologists, child and adolescent

psychiatrists, support workers, social workers and other professionals. CAMHS can also diagnose and treat serious mental health problems, such as psychosis.

Care Order

A care order is given by a court and allows a council to take a child into care. Under the **Children Act 1989**, a council can apply for a care order if it believes a child is suffering harm. The court decides if the child can be taken into care.

Child Labour

Child Labour can be defined as work that harms a child's physical and mental development and deprives them of their childhood, their potential and their dignity.

Child Marriage

A marriage between a child under the age of 18 to another child or an adult. In England and Wales it is now an offence to cause a child under the age of 18 to enter a marriage in any circumstances, without the need to prove coercion was used. This includes non legally binding 'traditional' ceremonies which would still be viewed as marriages by the parties and their families.

Child Protection

Child Protection involves protecting specific children that have been identified as suffering or may suffer from harm.

Child Protection Plan

When a child is judged to be at risk of significant harm to their welfare, health or development, a child protection plan will be put into place. This plan will identify the specific risks the child faces and actions that are needed to ensure their protection and safety. The protection plan will end when social services are happy that the concerns have been addressed and the child is no longer at risk of harm. Emotional abuse and neglect are the main reasons children have a child protection plan.

CME (Children Missing Education)

Children missing education are children of compulsory school age who are not registered pupils at a school and are not receiving suitable education otherwise than at a school. Children missing education are at significant risk of underachieving, being victims of harm, exploitation or radicalisation and becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training), later in life.

CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation)

Child Sexual Exploitation is when someone under the age of 18 is given something in exchange or return for having sexual activities performed on them or for performing those sexual activities. This can be in exchange for money, gifts, food, accommodation, affection and more. It can also include threats of harm or humiliation, violence or intimidation.

Coercion

Persuading someone to do something with the use of force or threats.

Control

An ability or power to decide or strongly influence how someone will act or how something will happen.

County lines

County lines describe gangs and organised criminal networks that are involved in exporting and importing illegal drugs within the UK. They often exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store the drugs and money by using coercion (persuasion through force or threats), intimidation, violence and weapons.

Criminal exploitation

Criminal exploitation occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive another person, usually a vulnerable individual. The victim may have been criminally

exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Criminal exploitation does not always involve physical contact - it can also occur through the use of technology.

Cuckooing

Cuckooing refers to a drug dealer taking over the home of a vulnerable person to use as a base to sell or manufacture drugs. (Gov.uk)

Cyberbullying/ abuse (online bullying)

cyberbullying/abuse (online bullying) can involve posting, sending or sharing false, harmful or negative content about someone. This includes sharing private or personal information about someone with the intention of harming them. Cyber bullying can break the law and become criminal behaviour.

D

DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service)

The DBS will provide you with a criminal record check. A DBS was previously known as a CRB (Criminal Record Bureau) and you may hear people still refer to suitability checks as this but the correct name is DBS. You may be asked to request a DBS check by your employer. A basic check will contain details of convictions and conditional cautions considered to be 'unspent' under the rehabilitation of offenders act.

DBS (Overseas Police Check)

For any applicant wishing to work in a nursery, school or college and has lived abroad for 12 months or more in the last 10 years an overseas police check must be sought. If more than one country has been lived in for more than 12 months within the last 10 years then multiple police checks must be sought from each country

Depression

Depression affects people in different ways and can cause a wide variety of symptoms. They range from lasting feelings of unhappiness and hopelessness, to losing interest in the things you used to enjoy and feeling very tearful. Many people with depression also have symptoms of anxiety. There can be physical symptoms too, such as feeling constantly tired, sleeping badly, having no appetite and various aches

Disability abuse

Disability abuse refers to disabled people being threatened with violence, being physically abused, being sexually assaulted and/or experiencing emotional and financial abuse.

disclosure

When a child tells someone that they are being abused.

Discrimination

Discrimination is being treated unfairly because of who you are. Types of discrimination or 'protected characteristics' can include age, gender reassignment, being married or in a civil partnership, being pregnant or on maternity leave, disability, race (including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin), religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation. You are legally protected from discrimination by the Equality Act 2010. (Gov.uk)

Disguised Compliance

Disguised compliance is when caregivers give the impression that they are cooperating with professionals, such as social workers, in order to delay or stop working with them. It can mean that children face unknown risk factors.

Disqualification

A person who is disqualified may not provide childcare provision and may not be directly concerned in the management of this provision. Disqualification can happen if someone: (includes but is not limited to)

- ▶ is on the Disclosure Barring Service Children's Barred List;
- ▶ has been found to have committed certain violent and sexual criminal offences against children and adults;
- ▶ has committed an offence overseas;
- ▶ lives in the same household where another person who is disqualified lives;
- ▶ refuses or cancels regulations relating to childcare.

Domestic violence, domestic abuse and relationship abuse

Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or 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. This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse: ► psychological ► physical ► sexual ► financial ► emotional

(Gov.uk)

DSL (designated safeguarding lead)

The person appointed to make sure that educational settings are adhering to safeguarding and child protection requirements. It is their responsibility to report any allegations of abuse, keep robust safeguarding records, update policies and procedures, ensure confidential records are stored securely and oversee staff safeguarding training. The DSL has the overall responsibility of keeping children safe within a childcare setting.

Duty of Care

Duty of care is the legal obligation for all adults in a nursery—whether paid or volunteers—to take reasonable steps to safeguard children from harm and promote their wellbeing. In 2026, these responsibilities are governed by the **Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)**.

E

Early help (or early intervention)

The Early Help System is not a single service. It is a network of services, processes and interactions that aim to help children, young people and families at the earliest opportunity. It is done in order to help reduce future safeguarding risks. (Gov.uk)

Economic abuse

Economic abuse involves behaviours that interfere with an individual's ability to acquire, use and maintain economic resources, such as money, transportation and utilities. It can be controlling or coercive. It can make the individual economically dependent on the abuser, thereby limiting their ability to escape and access safety. It is designed to intimidate and isolate the victim. Economic abuse is included as a category of abuse in the Domestic Abuse Act. It goes beyond interfering with money and finances to include economic resources more broadly, such as things that money can buy. Examples include housing, possessions and clothing. (Gov.uk)

EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan)

Children who require more support than they can get from the SEND provision currently available in their education or childcare setting, may need an EHCP. EHCP assessments are carried out by local authorities when a request is made. Referrals can be made by parents, schools, childcare practitioners, doctors, health visitors and family friends. EHCPs replace 'statements', which were previously issued for children with SEND

Elective home education (or homeschooling)

Some parents/carers choose to educate their children at home, rather than them attending school on a full-time basis. This is allowed in the UK, providing the child has a 'suitable', full-time education. However, in some circumstances, parents/carers must request permission to home educate their child (e.g. if a child has SEND and attends a special school, or if they wish to attend school part-time as well). If a child is found not to be getting a 'suitable education', local authorities have the power to serve a 'school attendance order', meaning that the child must return to school.

Emotional abuse (also called psychological abuse)

Emotional abuse can involve deliberately criticising, humiliating, taunting, controlling, isolating, ignoring, scaring, putting down or otherwise upsetting a child. It can also include not providing what a child needs socially and emotionally, sometimes called 'emotional neglect'. Emotional abuse is the hardest kind of abuse to identify and prove. However, some signs to look out for may include: being withdrawn, lack of self-confidence, anxiety, struggling to make and maintain friendships, inability to accept compliments, making negative comments about

themselves, being cruel to others (including animals), being overly affectionate to strangers, have emotional outbursts, showing no affection for parents, not wanting to go home, etc.

Equality Act, 2010

The Equality Act is a law that protects people from direct and indirect discrimination. It applies to all workplaces, childcare settings and wider society. This law states that nobody should be discriminated against because of age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, race, religion, ethnicity, marital status, beliefs, social status, class, or any other reason.

Escalation policy

An escalation policy will set out steps that needs to be taken when there is a professional difference in opinion over a safeguarding issue.

Exclusion

Someone is excluded if they are not being allowed to take part in something or enter somewhere. Exclusion in an educational setting can involve a child not being allowed to attend the setting for a period of time or permanently if they have broken the behaviour policy.

Extremism

The vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different

F

Faiths and beliefs.

Faith-based abuse Child abuse linked to faith or belief. This can include a belief in witchcraft, spirit possession and other forms of the supernatural that can lead to children being blamed for bad luck and subsequently abused. Fear of the supernatural is also known to be used to make children comply with being trafficked for domestic slavery or sexual exploitation

Fear

An emotion caused by the threat of danger, pain or harm. If someone is fearful they are afraid of someone or something that is likely to be dangerous, painful or harmful.

FGM (Female Genital Mutilation)

A person is guilty of an FGM offence if they excise, infibulate or otherwise mutilate the whole or any part of a girl's or woman's labia majora, labia minora or clitoris. To excise is to remove part or all of the clitoris and the inner labia (lips that surround the vagina), with or without removal of the labia majora (larger outer lips). To infibulate is to narrow the vaginal opening by creating a seal, formed by cutting and repositioning the labia. It is an offence for any person (regardless of their nationality or residence status) to:

- ▶ perform FGM in England and Wales;
- ▶ assist a girl to carry out FGM on herself in England and Wales;
- ▶ assist a non-UK person to carry out FGM outside the UK on a UK national or UK resident. If the mutilation takes place in England or Wales, the nationality or residence status of the victim is irrelevant.

FII (Fabricated or Induced Illness)

A rare form of child abuse. It happens when a parent or carer exaggerates or deliberately causes symptoms of illness in the child. Behaviours in FII can include a parent or carer who:

- ▶ persuades healthcare professionals that their child is ill when they're healthy;
- ▶ exaggerates or lies about their child's symptoms;
- ▶ manipulates test results to suggest the child is ill, for example by putting glucose in urine samples to suggest the child has diabetes;
- ▶ deliberately induces symptoms of illness, for example by poisoning their child with unnecessary medicine or other substances.

Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder FASD

Drinking alcohol during pregnancy can risk causing harm to the baby and can sometimes result in mental and physical problems, called foetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD). FASD can happen when alcohol in the mother's blood passes to her baby through the placenta. Babies cannot process alcohol well, which means it can stay in their body for a long time. Alcohol can damage their brain and body and stop them from developing normally in the womb. This can result in the loss of the pregnancy. Babies who survive may be left with lifelong problems. FASD can cause problems with:

- ▶ movement, balance, vision and hearing;
- ▶ learning, such as problems with thinking, concentration, and memory;
- ▶ managing emotions and developing social skills;
- ▶ hyperactivity and impulse control;
- ▶ communication, such as problems with speech;
- ▶ the joints, muscles, bones, and organs, such as the kidneys and heart. These problems are permanent, though early treatment and support can help limit their impact on a child's life. (NHS)

Forced Marriage

A forced marriage is where one or both people do not or cannot consent to the marriage and pressure or abuse is used to force them into the marriage. It is also when anything is done to make someone marry before they turn 18, even if there is no pressure or abuse. Forced marriage is illegal in the UK. It is a form of domestic abuse and a serious abuse of human rights. The pressure put on people to marry against their will may include:

- ▶ physical: for example, threats, physical violence or sexual violence;
- ▶ emotional and psychological: for example, making someone feel like they are bringing 'shame' on their family;
- ▶ financial: for example, taking someone's wages.

G

Gangs and Gang Activity

A gang consists of at least three people, has one or more characteristics that enable its members to be identified by others as a group and carries out criminal activity. Gang activity and culture can involve serious and widespread criminal offending, often with strong ties to organised crime offenders. Gangs often prey on young and other vulnerable people, coercing them to become involved with crime.

Gender-Based Abuse

This is primarily (but not exclusively) committed against women by men. This includes but is not limited to:

- ▶ domestic abuse
- ▶ rape and sexual assault
- ▶ childhood sexual abuse ▶ stalking and harassment
- ▶ commercial sexual exploitation
- ▶ harmful practices - such as female genital mutilation and forced marriage

Grooming

Grooming is when someone develops a relationship with a child, young person or adult who is at risk in order to abuse and manipulate them into doing things. Grooming can happen online or in person and can happen over a short or long time period. This abuse is typically sexual or financial, but can include other illegal acts.

Gut feelings

At The Oxford Nursery we encourage everyone to share 'gut feelings' or concerns with their Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), however absurd or unlikely. The DSL then has the opportunity to make notes of concerns and collate any other concerns that may have been brought to their attention and act in the most appropriate way to protect a child. This reflects greatly in high profile safeguarding tragedies such as the cases

of Victoria Climbié (2000) and most recently Sara Sharif (2023) and so many cases between these years all resulting in the loss of life.

H

Hate Crime

A crime considered to be done because of hostility or prejudice against someone's actual or perceived race, religion, sexual orientation, disability, gender and many more.

Homelessness

A household that has no home in the UK or anywhere else in the world available and reasonable to occupy. The following housing circumstances are examples of homelessness:

- ▶ rooflessness (without a shelter of any kind, sleeping rough)
- ▶ houselessness (with a place to sleep but temporary, in institutions or a shelter)
- ▶ living in insecure housing (threatened with severe exclusion due to insecure tenancies, eviction, domestic violence, or staying with family and friends - known as 'sofa surfing')
- ▶ living in inadequate housing (in caravans on illegal campsites, in unfit housing, in extreme overcrowding)

Homophobic Bullying

Homophobic bullying is repeated behaviour, intended to hurt someone who identifies as homosexual. It can take many forms, including physical assault, teasing, making threats, name calling and cyberbullying.

Honour-based Abuse/ Violence

Honour-based violence takes many different forms. While women and girls are the most common victims of honour-based violence, men and boys can be victims too. Motives for honour-based violence can include:

- ▶ conflicts of honour, e.g. concerning an inheritance
 - ▶ loss of virginity outside marriage
 - ▶ an extramarital affair
 - ▶ rebellion against traditional forms of behaviour, dress or occupation
 - ▶ insulting a family member
 - ▶ not agreeing with a forced marriage
 - ▶ homosexuality
 - ▶ refusing to take part in honour-based violence against another person
- Honour-based violence can include physical abuse, psychological pressure, abandonment, forced suicide and honour killing

HSB (Harmful Sexual Behaviour)

Harmful sexual behaviour is when children demonstrate developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour that is harmful or abusive.

Humiliation

To make someone feel embarrassed or ashamed, and reduce someone to a lower position in someone else's eyes.

Hunger

The distress, weakness or discomfort associated with lack of food.

I

ICO (Information Commissioner's Office)

The ICO regulates data protection in the UK. They offer advice and guidance, promote good practice, monitor breach reports, conduct audits and advisory visits, consider complaints, monitor compliance and take enforcement action where appropriate.

Icel (involuntary Celibates)

Describes someone, often male, who feels unable to get a romantic or sexual partner despite wanting one. Online they can express anger at women for denying them sex and fantasise about violence. information sharing

Information sharing is the disclosure of safeguarding information to the right organisations and people to prevent serious harm or death. It is vital with information sharing that the information is necessary for the purpose it is shared and only shared with those that need to have it. It is also vital that the information is accurate, up to date, shared in a timely way and shared securely.

Intimate Care

Intimate care are care tasks of an intimate nature associated with bodily function and personal hygiene which need direct or indirect contact with, or exposure of, the sexual parts of the body

Intimidation

A person whose behaviour causes another to fear that violence will be used against them.

IOM (Infant Oral Mutilation)

Infant Oral Mutilation is a traditional practice involving extraction of an infant's unerupted primary tooth buds. (National Library of Medicine) IOM can negatively impact a child's oral and overall health because of blood loss, infection or transmission of disease.

L

LAC (Looked-After Child)

A looked-after child is every child who is looked after by the local authority at any time during the year. Looked-after children can also be referred to as children in care.

LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer)

The LADO is responsible for managing allegations against adults who work with children. This can involve working with children's social care, police and other professionals. The LADO does not directly conduct the investigation but will oversee them - they will not have direct contact with those involved in the case.

Learning Difficulty

A learning difficulty is a reduced intellectual ability for a specific form of learning and includes a range of conditions, such as dyslexia (reading), dyspraxia (affecting physical coordination) and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). A person with a learning disability may also have one or more learning difficulties.

Lost Child

Lost child is a term for a child who, due to neglect and/or abuse, spend most of their time trying not to get noticed by anyone. This may have been learnt as a habit in order to stay safe as much as they could.

LSP (Local Safeguarding Partners)

Safeguarding partners include the local authority, a clinical commissioning group and the chief officer of police within the local authority area. They are 'relevant agencies' as people who are specialists in regulations and exercises in relation to children within the area. They work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area. (Working Together to Safeguard Children)

M

Maltreatment

Child maltreatment is the abuse and neglect that occurs to children under 18 years of age (World Health Organisation). Maltreatment can include all types of emotional and physical abuse.

MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub)

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub is made up of representatives from children's social care co-located with professionals from the police and the NHS. The MASH also has virtual links with other partner agencies, such as education, housing, probation, the youth offending team and the UK Border Agency. If there are any other agencies working with a family, for example domestic violence services, alcohol and drug services or another relevant agency, the MASH may contact these agencies for information. The purpose of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is to improve the quality of information that is shared between professionals in order to make timely and informed decisions about risk based on accurate and up-to-date information.

Mental Health Conditions (caregivers)

Mental health conditions can include depression, anxiety, bipolar, schizophrenia or other diagnosable conditions. Caregivers with mental health conditions may need more support when providing care for their children depending on their individual support network.

Mobile Phones

Mobile phone safeguarding involves using security features like passcodes, being cautious with apps and public Wi-Fi, protecting personal data, and setting clear usage rules to prevent online risks like cyberbullying, contact with abusers, or health issues. For children, this also includes parental controls, education on safe online behaviour, and for older children establishing healthy habits to limit screen time and promote sleep. In professional settings like schools or early years settings, policies are in place to restrict or ban personal phone use, with staff using nursery-provided devices for communication to ensure constant supervision and prevent misuse. The Oxford Nursery has a policy for 'No Mobile phone in any room' where children are. There is a clear Mobile Phone policy and procedures in place to make sure Mobile Phones are stored safely while staff are on the premises and where phones are surrendered to a safe box.

Modern-Day Slavery

Modern slavery is a serious crime that violates human rights. Victims are forced, threatened or deceived into situations of subjugation, degradation and control which undermine their personal identity and sense of self. Professionals should work proactively with a view to preventing modern slavery in all its forms. They should be trained to take appropriate action and provide possible victims with appropriate protection and support, based upon their individual needs. It is essential that professionals recognise that survivors of modern slavery may be at risk of re-trafficking and further harm. Collaborative partnerships, multi-disciplinary and multi-agency working are fundamental to ensure that victims are identified, protected and safeguarded. Activities should be carried out in partnership with other agencies to provide victims with integrated support and access to their rights and entitlements. It is important for professionals to understand the specific vulnerability of victims of modern slavery and utilise practical, trauma-informed methods of working which are based upon fundamental principles of dignity, compassion and respect. Victim's voices must always be heard and their rights respected.

N

Neglect (physical and emotional)

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- ▶ provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);
- ▶ protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;
- ▶ ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers);
- ▶ ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Non-Contact Abuse/ Witnessing

Non-contact abuse is abuse without physical touching. This can include forcing a child to take part in sexual activities or conversations online, exposing children to sexual acts, showing them pornography, forcing them to view sexual images or making them masturbate.

Non-Mobile Babies

Non-mobile babies are unable to move independently through crawling, cruising or bottom shuffling. Particular attention should be given to the risks in those children who are unable to roll over. There are policies for non-mobile babies to review bruising in children who are not independently mobile.

O

Obesity

'Overweight' and 'obesity' are terms that refer to excess body fat which is calculated by body mass index (BMI) and waist circumference (WC). Childhood obesity and excess weight are significant health issues for children and their families. There can be serious implications for a child's physical and mental health, which can continue into adulthood. The number of children with an unhealthy and potentially dangerous weight is a national public health concern.

Online Safety

Online safety is all about ensuring children are kept safe while accessing the Internet. It is important to help manage what they see and do online through controls and privacy settings, as well as talking to children about what they like to do online and who they are in contact with to help ensure their safety.

Oral Health

Oral health refers to the health of the teeth, gums and the entire oral-facial system that allows us to smile, speak and chew. Some of the most common diseases that impact our oral health include cavities (tooth decay), gum (periodontal) disease and oral cancer. Oral health is a particular priority in young children and tooth decay is the most common oral disease affecting children and is largely preventable.

OSCP (Formerly OSCB) Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

The [Children and Social Work Act 2017](#) set up Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships to improve how different agencies work together to safeguard children. The most recent version of the statutory guidance underpinning the Act, [Working Together 2023](#), came into force on 15th December 2023.

In Oxfordshire the lead safeguarding partners are:

- Martin Reeves, Chief Executive of Oxfordshire County Council,
- Nick Broughton, Chief Executive, Integrated Care Board Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire West, and
- Jason Hogg, Chief Constable, Thames Valley Police

P

PanCo

The Physical Activity and Nutrition Coordinator (PANCo) is a new role for Early Years Staff. The PANCo champions best practice in physical activity and nutrition and acts as the agent for change. They lead positive change to ensure an environment and ethos that supports the prevention of obesity and health and wellbeing of children, families, and staff.

Parental Responsibility

All mothers and most fathers have legal rights and responsibilities as a parent - known as 'parental responsibility'. If you have parental responsibility, your most important roles are to:

- ▶ provide a home for the child;
- ▶ protect and maintain the child. You're also responsible for:
- ▶ disciplining the child;
- ▶ choosing and providing for the child's education;
- ▶ agreeing to the child's medical treatment;
- ▶ naming the child and agreeing to any change of name;

► looking after the child's property.

Peer-On Peer Abuse (previously child on-child abuse)

Peer-on-peer child abuse is used when children abuse other children. It can include physical abuse, bullying, sexual violence, sexual harassment, upskirting, sharing private nude photos without permission, emotional and financial abuse.

Personal Hygiene

Behaviours that protect our health, such as regularly cleaning our body, hair, mouth and teeth as well as ensuring we have clean clothes to wear. (This relates to safeguarding because a lack of personal hygiene shown by caregivers or children can be a sign of neglect.)

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is when one person harms another person physically and can include assault, hitting, slapping, pushing, misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate physical sanctions.

Physical Intervention

A physical act that aims to influence, modify or prevent the actions of a child or young person. Physical intervention includes direct physical contact and actions affecting the movement of a child or young person. Physical intervention can be used in a variety of ways, from being an agreed support as part of a child's plan to decisions taken following a dynamic risk assessment in an emergency situation. Common factors in all of these decisions are the best interests of the child or young person and the duty of care education providers have to protect them and others from harm.

Poisoning

Someone giving a chemical substance that has a negative effect on health. (This relates to safeguarding because children can experience poisoning as a form of physical abuse or neglect.) Accidental poisoning can involve medicine, household products and cosmetics.

Prevent duty

The Prevent duty requires all education providers 'to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. This includes safeguarding children, young people and adult learners from extremist ideologies and radicalisation. Most importantly, providers should consider the needs of children, young people and adult learners at each stage of the safeguarding process. Providers should consider radicalisation concerns in line with their existing safeguarding processes, skills and experience.

Private Fostering

Private fostering is fostering that is arranged privately and done so without any involvement of a local authority for the care of a child under 16 years of age by someone other than a parent or close relative, with the intention that it will last for 28 days or more. Privately fostered children are a diverse and potentially vulnerable group.

Professional Love

The relationships between educators and children, that are built on loving care.

PRU (Pupil Referral Unit)

Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) teach children who aren't able to attend school and may not otherwise receive suitable education. This could be because they have a short or long-term illness, have been excluded or are a new starter waiting for a mainstream school place. PRUs that convert to academy status become alternative provision (AP) academies.

PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder)

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is an anxiety disorder caused by very stressful, frightening or distressing events. Someone with PTSD often relives the traumatic event through nightmares and flashbacks and may experience feelings of isolation, irritability and guilt. They may also have problems sleeping, such as insomnia, and

find concentrating difficult. These symptoms are often severe and persistent enough to have a significant impact on the person's day-to-day life. Any situation that a person finds traumatic can cause PTSD. These can include:

- ▶ serious road accidents
 - ▶ violent personal assaults, such as sexual assault, mugging or robbery
 - ▶ serious health problems
 - ▶ childbirth experiences
- PTSD can develop immediately after someone experiences a disturbing event, or can occur weeks, months or even years later. PTSD is estimated to affect about one in every three people who have a traumatic experience, but it's not clear exactly why some people develop the condition and others do not

Q

Questions (otherwise known as being 'nosey')

We encourage our Carers and Managers to form an open and engaged relationship with all of our families and we ask questions in order to develop close bonds. From time to time we may see signs that a family is going through a tough time or is in crisis and our first concerns must be a child's welfare and we will ask a parent "Are things ok?", "How are you feeling?", "Do you feel you are coping?", "We haven't seen baby's daddy for a while, is everything ok?". We aren't trying to be invasive in a gossiping way but we are gently trying to check in and find out if life has become difficult for some reason or other and make sure all family members are coping and ultimately safe. We will offer our support and help a family with the concerning matters, directing them to other professional bodies where necessary.

R

Racial Abuse/ Racism

Racial abuse is repeated behaviour, intended to hurt someone because of their race. Racism is discrimination, prejudice or antagonism against a person or people on the basis of their race, typically those that are a minority or marginalised. Racism is also the belief that different races possess different qualities, abilities or characteristics to distinguish them as inferior or superior to another.

Radicalisation

Radicalisation means someone is being encouraged to develop extreme views or beliefs in support of terrorist groups and activities.

Reasonable force

The term 'reasonable force' covers the broad range of actions used by most practitioners at some point in their career that involve a degree of physical contact with pupils. Force is usually used either to control or restrain. This can range from guiding a pupil to safety by the arm through to more extreme circumstances, such as breaking up a fight or where a student needs to be restrained to prevent violence or injury. 'Reasonable in the circumstances' means using no more force than is needed. Reasonable force can be used to prevent pupils from hurting themselves or others, from damaging property or from causing disorder. The decision on whether or not to physically intervene is down to the professional judgement of the staff member concerned and should always depend on the individual circumstances. For more information on situations to use reasonable force, see the government guidance 'Use of Reasonable Force'.

Religious Abuse

Religious abuse is abuse that can happen within religious or spiritual communities. Abuse can be done under the appearance of religion, including harassment and humiliation.

Revenge Porn

Revenge porn is the sharing of private sexual materials, either photos or videos, of another person without their consent and with the purpose of causing embarrassment or distress. The offence applies both online and offline, and to images which are shared electronically or in a more traditional way. This includes the uploading of images on the Internet, sharing by text and email, or showing someone a physical or electronic image.

Risk Assessment

The process of evaluating potential risks involved in a certain activity or setting.

S

Safeguarding

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined for the purposes of this guidance as:

- ▶ protecting children from maltreatment;
- ▶ 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.

Safer Eating

Safer eating practices in early years settings include **rigorous supervision** during mealtimes, ensuring children are seated correctly and are within sight and hearing of a staff member. **Food must be prepared to prevent choking hazards**, such as cutting round foods into quarters and cylindrical foods into thin batons, and staff must maintain **high hygiene standards** during all food preparation and serving. Additionally, settings must be knowledgeable about a child's individual needs and work in partnership with parents regarding allergies and dietary restrictions.

Safer Recruitment

Safe recruitment is about ensuring that those working with children and vulnerable individuals are carefully vetted. Settings should have members of staff who are trained in safer recruitment and policies in place to prevent those who pose a risk of harm from working with children.

Safer Sleep

Safer sleep guidance is intended to help ensure the safe care of babies and prevent sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). The vital message to share with parents is to put babies on their back for every sleep, in a clear, flat sleep space and keep them smoke-free day and night.

Secrets

A secret is something that is not known or seen or not meant to be known or seen by others. It's important in safeguarding that, if a child shares a secret with an educational professional, they do not promise to keep their secret as it will need to be reported if that child discloses information that suggests that they are at risk.

Self-Policing Environment

An environment where those working together are mindful of each other's behaviour and pick each other up on any minor wrong doing in terms of safeguarding. Anything worthy of significant disclosure would be required to be whistle-blown and the DSL informed. In a self policing environment colleagues remind each other about safeguarding or risk assessing issues eg "please remember to shut the baby gate", "I can hear your voice is raising and you seem to be getting cross, would you like to take a break and share what is upsetting you?" etc

Self-Harm

Self-harm is when somebody intentionally damages or injures their body. It is a way of expressing deep emotional feelings, such as low self-esteem, or a way of coping with traumatic events, such as the death of a loved one.

SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities)

A child or young person aged from 0 to 25 years has special educational needs or disability (SEND) if they:

- ▶ have a learning difficulty or disability which makes it much harder for them to learn than other pupils of the same age;
- ▶ require special educational provision to be made for them. Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) can affect a child or young person's ability to learn. They can affect their:

- ▶ behaviour or ability to socialise, for example they struggle to make friends;
- ▶ reading and writing, for example because they have dyslexia;
- ▶ ability to understand things;
- ▶ concentration levels, for example because they have ADHD;
- ▶ physical ability.

Sex Trafficking

Illegally transporting people from one area to another for the use of sexual exploitation. sexual abuse Any sexual act or activity that is forced upon someone. **sexual harassment** When someone carries out unwanted sexual behaviour towards another person that makes them feel upset, scared, offended or humiliated. It is also when someone carries out this behaviour with the intention of making someone else feel that way.

SIDS (sudden infant death syndrome)

SIDS, sometimes known as 'cot death', is the sudden, unexpected and unexplained death of an apparently healthy baby.

Single Central Record

A single central record (SCR), sometimes referred to as a single central register, is a statutory requirement for all schools and academies in England and Wales to keep and maintain one single record of pre-appointment vetting checks, regulated activity and record information of all staff (including relevant volunteers, supply teachers, agency and third-party staff and teacher trainees on salaried routes).

Smacking

Hitting or striking someone with the palm of a hand, usually as punishment.

Staff Behaviour Policy

A policy which sets out the code of conduct that employed and voluntary staff must adhere to in order to safeguard children. For example it may go into more detail on attendance, professional development, phone use and so on.

Smart Watches, Smart Glasses 'Tech Wear'

Any wearable device that has the technology to take photos as well as send electronically poses a safeguarding threat to children.

The EYFS says about smart watches...

3.5 Staff should not use their Smart Watch to access photos or images whilst on nursery premises (indoors or outdoors) and whilst on local trips/outings. Removal of a Smart Watch if the safety of a child[ren] is at risk.

Starvation

Suffering or death caused by a lack of food.

Substance Misuse (parent or carer - including drugs and alcohol)

Substance abuse, also known as drug abuse, is a patterned use of a drug in which the user consumes the substance in amounts or with methods which are harmful to themselves or others, and is a form of substance-related disorder. Widely differing definitions of drug abuse are used in public health, medical and criminal justice contexts.

Suicide

Suicide is death caused by injuring oneself with the intent to die.

Supervision

Safeguarding supervision is an opportunity for support, challenge and learning around safeguarding cases.

Safeguarding cases can be tricky, stressful and emotionally draining. It is therefore important to have access to conversations to seek ideas, signposting and advice about how to manage the case, particularly when what has been tried so far does not appear to be working, and to discuss how others feel about it from a personal perspective. Many people have experienced trauma and safeguarding cases can trigger unpleasant memories and

feelings. Having a safe space to talk is an important way to look after professionals' wellbeing. Supervision can be both formal and informal.

T

TEDS (Tell me, Explain to me, Describe to me, Show me)

The TEDS technique is used in safeguarding situations where a child may disclose information. This technique helps the supporting adult to better understand what has happened. At The Oxford Nursery we use the additional 'Show Me' where appropriate as recommended by OSCP

Terrorism

Terrorism can mean the act of or threat of:

- ▶ serious violence against a person;
- ▶ serious damage against a property;
- ▶ something that endangers a person's life;
- ▶ something that creates serious risk to the health and safety of the public;
- ▶ seriously interfering with an electronic system. This is all in order to influence the government or the public for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.

Theft

Dishonestly appropriating property belonging to another with the intention of permanently depriving the other of it.

Threat

Someone who communicates an intention to hurt another person.

Threshold of need

It is essential to log all safeguarding concerns and report anything that is of significance. Once reports are made, local authorities will have a document that identifies their 'threshold of need'. This allows them to think about which safeguarding and child protection issues they should prioritise and investigate further. A very minor concern that is reported to them may not meet the 'threshold of need' for that area, so it may be logged on file rather than being investigated and acted upon at that time. This allows local authorities to target their support and intervention where it is needed more urgently, as resources are often limited.

Trafficking

Human trafficking involves the recruitment or movement of people for exploitation by the use of threat, force, fraud or the abuse of vulnerability. Trafficking is a crime that can occur across international borders or within a country. It often crosses multiple geographic and legal boundaries. Men, women and children may be trafficked for various purposes. They include labour sectors (for example, agriculture, food processing, manufacturing, services), domestic servitude, forced begging and petty theft and sexual exploitation.

Transferable Risk

Transferable risk in safeguarding refers to the potential for a person's behavior or circumstances outside of work to make them unsuitable to work with children, such as through a criminal conviction or a close association with someone who poses a risk. It involves assessing whether personal actions, even if not directly involving children, could indicate a risk of harm to children they may be in contact with through their role. This concept is often managed through a [Local Authority Designated Officer \(LADO\)](#) process and is sometimes called [suitability threshold](#).

Transphobic Abuse

People that have transitioned genders (transgender people), being threatened with violence, being physically abused, being sexually assaulted and/or experiencing emotional and financial abuse.

Trilogy Of Vulnerabilities (previously 'trio of risk'/'toxic trio')

People that experience mental illness, substance misuse and domestic abuse. The presence of the trilogy of vulnerabilities can increase the risk of neglect or abuse of children.

Trolling

When someone purposefully offends or provokes someone online in the hopes of upsetting or angering them.

Trusted Adult

A trusted adult is a reliable person that a young child feels safe with and can go to for help and support when they have worries or feel sad, scared, or angry. These adults listen without judgment, encourage the child, respect their feelings, and help them understand and manage their emotions and difficult situations. Trusted adults can be anyone, such as a parent, grandparent, teacher, coach, or other caregiver, and they provide a sense of security and emotional stability, which is vital for a child's mental health and overall well-being.

U

Uncollected Child

An uncollected child is a child that has not been collected from an educational setting. When this happens there is a policy in place to ensure the child is kept safe until parents/carers arrive or alternative care is arranged.

Unconscious Bias

Unconscious biases can influence a person's judgement without them being aware of it. This judgement is based on previous experiences and assumptions and interpretations that have built up over time. There are many different types of unconscious bias, including those based on gender, age, religion and race.

Unsupervised Contact

A parent/carer can spend time with their child without another person having to be present. Contact is supervised when the parent/carer's past behaviour endangers the child's safety.

Up skirting

Upskirting is where someone takes a picture under a person's clothing without their permission. In 2019 it became a specific criminal offence in England and Wales.

V

Verbal Abuse

Threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour, or display of visible representations, which are likely to cause fear of, or to provoke, immediate violence.

W

Wellbeing

Wellbeing comprises an individual's experience of their life, and a comparison of life circumstances with social norms and values. Wellbeing exists in two dimensions:

- Subjective wellbeing asks people directly how they think and feel about their own wellbeing, and includes aspects like life satisfaction (evaluation), positive affect (hedonic) and a judgement on whether their life is meaningful (eudemonic).
- Objective wellbeing is based on assumptions about basic human needs and rights, including aspects like adequate food, physical health, education, safety etc. Objective wellbeing can be measured through self-report (asking people how they view their health), or through more objective measures (mortality rates and life expectancy).

Mental wellbeing is part of overall wellbeing and is more than just the absence of mental illness. It is a positive state of mind and body, underpinned by social and psychological wellbeing. It enables and supports good relationships, improved resilience, improved health, meaning, purpose and control. It is predictive of improved healthy life expectancy, quality of life and life satisfaction and is inextricably linked with physical health and living with, and recovering from, both physical and mental illnesses.

Whistleblowing (policy)

Whistleblowing is when someone reports colleagues they believe are doing something wrong or illegal, or who are neglecting their duties. The policy aims to protect those staff members who do so.

White Supremacy

The belief that white people are a superior race and should dominate society over other racial and ethnic groups.

Witchcraft (now under faith based abuse, Child Abuse Linked to Faith and Belief and Witchcraft) CALFBW

Witchcraft can be defined as a religious practice involving magic. Some people who believe in witchcraft are certain that a child can use an evil force to harm others. Children can then be abused, neglected and even killed when others try to rid them of the evil force. This belief is widespread and not only the case for certain countries, cultures or religions. It is important to keep aware of the language surrounding witchcraft to ensure children are kept safe. Some language can include: 'evil', 'devil beaten out of them', 'exercising evil', 'demons', 'kindoki', 'djin', 'voodoo' and 'juju'.

The source of this information has been taken from a variety of relevant bodies of knowledge and The Oxford Nursery remains committed to keeping up to date with new legislation.

Credits to this Safeguarding Summary go to Gov.UK, NHS, Department of Health, Help for Families, Children Act of 1989, Gov.UK /Crime Justice and Law, Public Health Scotland, NI Gov website, Working together to Safeguard Children, National Library of Medicine, World Health Organisation, Gov.scot, Crown Prosecution Services, Twinkl, The Oxford Nursery, Acacia Care and Education LTD

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