

Safeguarding/LADO

This policy is designed to help all staff meet the duty of care towards all children attending Seaton Farms and will be reviewed regularly to ensure the children in our care are kept safe from all forms of harm.

**Contact details**

LADO Cheshire East: 01270 685904/ [LADO@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:LADO@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

LADO North Shropshire: 03456 789021

This policy was last reviewed on 01/01/2024

**Important numbers**

Police – 101 non-emergency or 999 in an emergency.

NSPCC – 0808 800 5000, text 88858 or email help@nspcc.org.uk.

UK Anti-Terrorism Hotline phone – 0800 789 321.

**Underpinning Legislation**

This policy demonstrates Seaton Farms commitment to child protection and compliance with underpinning safeguarding legislation. The main pieces of legislation and guidance underpinning this policy include:

• Working together to safeguard children

• What to do if you are worried a child is being abused

• Information sharing

• Keeping children safe in education

• Prevent duty guidance for England and Wales

• The Equality Act 2010

**Supporting documents**

This policy should be read alongside guidance as below and our organisational policies and procedures:

• Farm conduct policy

• Health and safety policy

• NSPCC guidance – nspcc.org.uk/childprotection

**Definitions of safeguarding/child protection**

Safeguarding means protecting the health, wellbeing, and human rights of children at risk enabling them to live safely, free from abuse and neglect.

Child Protection is part of the safeguarding process. It focuses on protecting individual children identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.

Safeguarding/child protection statement

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone’s responsibility. Everyone in contact with the children and their families has a role to play in safeguarding. The role of Seaton Farms is to comply with statutory requirements to protect the children in our care and who visit our farm. Examples of how this responsibility will be fulfilled include:

• Keeping this policy up to date and sharing with any staff or volunteers

• Staying up to date with child protection threats

• Follow any local authority advice in relation to child protection and safeguarding concerns.

• For school visits, share any concerns with the teacher in charge of the visit and/or contacting the school’s DSL directly.

We aim to ensure that all children, regardless of age, gender, ability, culture, race, language, religion or sexual identity are treated with equal respect and have equal rights to protection.

**Signs and symptoms of abuse**

We are aware of the four main types of abuse – physical, emotional, neglect and sexual. The Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022 and guidance on the symptoms of abuse and changes in behaviour which might indicate abuse are available in the centre information file.

**Action to be taken if there is a safeguarding concern about a child**

Children need to feel secure in a safe environment. We are alert to safeguarding concerns in the setting.

For school visits all concerns will be alerted to the teacher in charge of the school trip for them to then follow their school policy and procedures. Direct contact with the school DSL will be made as necessary.

For non-school visits, if we suspect there is a child protection issue, we will take appropriate steps to support the child and record concerns, following advice from the Local Authority, using appropriate documentation when required. Concerns will be reported immediately to the Safeguarding Children Partners.

Contact details are available at the top of this document.

**Action to be taken if a child makes a safeguarding disclosure**

If a child makes a disclosure related to safeguarding, we will record exactly what was said and report the disclosure to parents and, if relevant, to the relevant agency.

We recognise that where a child’s behaviour changes suddenly or over a period of time and / or a child displays behaviour that worries me, this might be a sign of possible abuse or trauma.

The Local Authority states that I would normally speak to parents about disclosures – however, I must not speak to parents if I think the discussion might make home life worse for the child or if the disclosure relates to suspected sexual abuse, induced / fabricated illness or FGM.

Action to be taken if a safeguarding allegation is made against me or a family member / staff If a child or parent makes an allegation against me, staff or volunteers at the Lancashire Education

Centre, my family or visitors in the setting, their comments will be recorded and a report will be made to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) who will take over the investigation.

**Mobile phone and camera policy**

Staff may use mobile phones and cameras in the setting to communicate with parents and to make phone calls in emergencies; photos of children may be shared with parents or the school.

Parental permission is requested from parents in relation to sharing group photographs, to comply with data protection legislation. Parental permission is also requested for photographs and videos to be used on social media, website and promotional activities.

Visitors are not left unsupervised and do not use mobile phones or cameras when near the children.

We are aware that safeguarding legislation has made upskirting (taking photos up skirts) a reportable offence.

**Supporting vulnerable children**

We are aware that children with special educational needs and / or disabilities (SEND) are especially vulnerable to abuse and neglect. Where appropriate, we aim to work closely with parents and other agencies / professionals involved in the child’s care.

**Whistleblowing**

We are aware of the requirement to disclose information if the intention is to keep children safe.

Whistleblowing might cover, for example, raising concerns about poor staff practice including disqualification notifications; concerns about inappropriate comments, excessive one-to-one attention beyond the normal or inappropriate sharing of images by a colleague or manager; if I observe poor practice while on an outing; if I am worried about a child in any context.

Practitioners and parents should report concerns to the Local Authority Safeguarding Partners.

The Prevent Duty

Elaine completes annual Prevent training. She is aware of the risks of children being radicalised or exposed to extremism in their family or online. If she is concerned a child is being radicalised or exposed to extremism, she will raise it with the relevant agency within the Local Authority

**Safeguarding Partners.**

To comply with the Prevent Duty requirements, she is required to actively promote British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance and share information with parents.

**Record keeping and ICO registration**

Safeguarding and first aid records are kept in line with guidance. Records (paper and online) are stored as securely as possible and confidentially. There is a clear desk policy when there are visitors in the setting. I am registered with the Information Commissioners Office (registration renewed annually).

**Partnership working**

Data protection legislation is not a barrier to information sharing in a safeguarding / child protection

context. I aim to work in partnership with other agencies and / or professionals, to ensure procedures are suitable to identify, assess and support children.

**Sharing this policy with parents**

Teachers and parents are partners in the setting and the policy is shared to help them understand obligations regarding child protection and safeguarding. External sources of guidance are also signposted for parents, and I am available in the setting to answer parent questions.

This policy is available on the website and a hard copy is available from the farm office. Policies can also be emailed upon request.

**Designated safeguarding lead signature**

Signature: Kelly Seaton

Date: 01/01/2024

Policy review date: this policy will be updated annually and as required.

**Staff signatures**

Staff linked to the setting must sign to confirm they have read and understood the Safeguarding Policy. The policy might be used for induction and ongoing safeguarding / child protection training.

Name:

Date:

Signature:

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Name:

Date:

Signature:

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