

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Suitable People

Providers must ensure that people looking after children are suitable to fulfil the requirements of their roles.

2.1 Employment

Policy statement

We meet the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage, ensuring that our staff and volunteers are appropriately qualified, and we carry out checks for criminal and other records through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) in accordance with statutory requirements.

Procedures

Vetting and staff selection

- We work towards offering equality of opportunity by using non-discriminatory procedures for staff recruitment and selection.
- All our staff have a job description, which sets out their roles and responsibilities.
- We welcome applications from all sections of the community. Applicants will be considered on the basis of their suitability for the post, regardless of disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, sex, age, marriage or civil partnership. Applicants will not be placed at a disadvantage by our imposing conditions or requirements that are not justifiable.
- We follow the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and Ofsted guidance on checking the suitability of all staff and volunteers who will have unsupervised access to children. This includes obtaining references and ensuring they have a satisfactory enhanced criminal records check with barred list(s) check through the DBS. This is in accordance with requirements under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2006) and the Protection of Freedoms Act (2012) for the vetting and barring scheme.
- Where an individual is subscribed to the DBS Update Service we carry out a status check of their DBS certificate, after checking their identity and viewing their original enhanced DBS certificate to ensure that it does not reveal any information that would affect their suitability for the post.
- We keep all records relating to the employment of our staff and volunteers; in particular those demonstrating that suitability checks have been done, including the date of issue, name, type of DBS check and unique reference number from the DBS certificate, along with details of our suitability decision.
- We require that all our staff and volunteers keep their DBS check up-to-date by subscribing to the DBS Update Service throughout the duration of their employment with us
- Our staff are expected to disclose any convictions, cautions, court orders, reprimands and warnings which may affect their suitability to work with children – whether received before, or at any time during, their employment with us
- We obtain consent from our staff and volunteers to carry out on-going status checks of the Update Service to establish that their DBS certificate is up-to-date for the duration of their employment with us.

- Where we become aware of any relevant information which may lead to the disqualification of an employee, we will take appropriate action to ensure the safety of children. In the event of disqualification, that person's employment with us will be terminated.

Notifying Ofsted of changes

- We inform Ofsted of any changes to our Registered Person (trustees/director(s)/owner(s) our provision) and/or our manager.

Training and staff development

- Our manager and deputy hold the CACHE Level 3 Diploma for the Children and Young People's Workforce or an equivalent qualification and at least half of our other staff members hold the CACHE Level 2 Certificate for the Children and Young People's Workforce or an equivalent or higher qualification.
- We provide regular in-service training to all our staff - whether paid staff or volunteers.
- Our budget allocates resources to mandatory training plus the equivalent of 2 days for other training, which will be agreed with the manager and committee.
- We provide our staff with induction training in the first week of their employment. This induction includes our Health and Safety Policy and Safeguarding Children and Child Protection Policy. Other policies and procedures are introduced within an induction plan. We then go through the induction plan again after around 6 weeks of employment to check knowledge and understanding
- We support the work of our staff by holding regular supervision meetings and appraisals.
- We are committed to recruiting, appointing and employing staff in accordance with all relevant legislation and best practice.

Staff taking medication/other substances

- If a member of staff is taking medication which may affect their ability to care for children, we ensure that they seek further medical advice. Our staff will only work directly with the children if medical advice confirms that the medication is unlikely to impair their ability to look after children properly.
- Staff medication on the premises will be stored securely and kept out of reach of the children at all times.
- If we have reason to believe that a member of our staff is under the influence of alcohol or any other substance that may affect their ability to care for children, they will not be allowed to work directly with the children and further action will be taken.

Managing staff absences and contingency plans for emergencies

- Our staff take their holiday breaks when the setting is closed. Where a staff member may need to take time off for any reason other than sick leave or training, this is agreed with our manager with sufficient notice.
- Where our staff are unwell and take sick leave in accordance with their contract of employment, we organise cover to ensure ratios are maintained.
- Sick leave is monitored and action is taken where necessary, in accordance with the individual's contract of employment.
- We have contingency plans to cover staff absences, as follows:

- Staff must contact the preschool leader as soon as possible regarding illness. In the event of an infectious illness the guidelines for absence from the setting are adhered to.
- The preschool leader will arrange cover using existing staff members when appropriate or call upon bank staff or members of the management committee.
- In the event of planned staff absence staff must contact the preschool leader.
- The preschool leader will inform the chair of any planned absence and liaise with them.
- In the event of long term illness staff must contact the chair of the management committee.
- A pool of bank staff members is built and if needed we contact other agencies.
- In the event that emergency cover cannot be gained, the daily routine will be adjusted to ensure the correct staff to child ratio is sufficient in all areas at all times.
- In the event that sufficient staff ratios cannot be maintained ie multiply staff absences then we will follow the Preschool emergency closure policy and procedure

This policy was adopted by	Sowood Preschool	<i>(name of provider)</i>
On	<u>May 2019</u>	<i>(date)</i>
Date to be reviewed	<u>May 2020</u>	<i>(date)</i>
Signed on behalf of the provider	<hr/>	
Name of signatory	<u>Joy Crowther</u>	
Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner)	<u>Trustee</u>	

Other useful Pre-school Learning Alliance publications

- The New Early Years Employee Handbook (2016)
- Recruiting Early Years Staff (2016)
- People Management in the Early Years (2016)