HAPPY FEET
Nursery & Pre-School

Safeguarding Children at Happy Feet Nursery

For parents and carers

At Happy Feet Nursery, the safety and wellbeing of every child is our highest priority. Safeguarding means protecting children from harm, abuse, neglect, or anything that could affect their welfare. We are committed to creating a safe, caring, and supportive environment where children can learn, grow, and thrive.

Our Commitment to Safeguarding

We follow the current Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026, and work in line with guidance from Ofsted and our Local Safeguarding Children Partnership. All staff receive regular safeguarding training and understand their responsibility to act if they have any concerns about a child's welfare.

Staff Training and Suitability

All staff and apprentices are recruited safely, including appropriate background checks. They receive safeguarding training and ongoing professional development to ensure they can recognise signs of abuse or neglect and know how to respond appropriately.

We maintain appropriate suitability and safer recruitment checks in accordance with current EYFS requirements, and staff are required to tell us about relevant circumstances that may affect their suitability to work with children.

Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs)

Happy Feet Nursery has trained Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) who take responsibility for safeguarding matters. If a concern arises, staff must report it immediately to a DSL or Deputy DSL. Safeguarding concerns must not be left until later in the day or delayed unnecessarily.

What Happens if We Have a Concern?

If we are worried about a child's safety or wellbeing, we will always act in the child's best interests. This may involve speaking with parents/carers, seeking advice from external professionals, or making a referral to Children's Social Care if required.

Where necessary and lawful to safeguard a child, we may share relevant information with Children's Social Care, the Police, health professionals or other appropriate agencies without first obtaining parental consent. We will normally keep parents/carers informed unless doing so could increase risk to a child, prejudice an investigation or otherwise be inappropriate for safeguarding reasons.

Attendance and Safeguarding

We monitor children's attendance as part of our safeguarding responsibilities. Parents are asked to inform us of any planned absences or if their child is unwell.

If a child does not attend as expected and we have not been informed, or an absence becomes prolonged or causes concern, we will follow this up. This may include contacting parents/carers and emergency contacts and considering the child's and family's circumstances and vulnerabilities. Where we cannot establish a child's welfare, or an absence gives rise to a safeguarding concern, we may contact Children's Social Care or other appropriate agencies in accordance with local safeguarding procedures.

Working in Partnership with Parents

We believe safeguarding works best when nurseries and families work together. We aim to build trusting relationships with parents and encourage open communication. If you ever have a concern about your child or another child's welfare, please speak to a member of staff or a DSL.

Safeguarding decisions will always be based on the child's welfare and the information reasonably available to us at the time. Where necessary, Happy Feet may take safeguarding action without delay and without waiting for parental agreement.

Online Safety and Screen Use

We take online safety seriously. Children are supported to use technology safely and appropriately, and strict procedures are in place regarding the use of mobile phones, cameras, and photographs within the nursery.

Where screens are used within the nursery, their use will be purposeful, age-appropriate and supervised, and balanced with play, movement, communication and real-world interaction, in line with current early years guidance.

Safer Sleep

We follow current EYFS safer-sleep requirements for babies and young children. This includes appropriate sleeping arrangements, regular checks and suitable supervision, with individual needs and relevant information from parents/carers taken into account.

Concerns or Allegations About Adults

Any concern or allegation that a member of staff, volunteer or other person working with or looking after children will be taken seriously and managed promptly in accordance with our safeguarding procedures. Where appropriate, we will seek advice from or refer the matter to the relevant safeguarding agencies.

Confidentiality

All safeguarding information is treated sensitively and confidentially and is only shared with those who need to know to protect a child's welfare.

Safeguarding information will be shared where there is a lawful and necessary reason to do so. Protecting a child takes priority where information needs to be shared to provide help, support or protection.

Further Information

If you would like to see our full Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy or speak to a Designated Safeguarding Lead, please ask a member of the nursery management team.

Effective from: September 2026 | Review cycle: Annual or sooner if legislation or statutory guidance changes