

## Child Sexual Exploitation

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) has become a growing and serious concern and is recognised as a form of child sexual abuse. This Policy is a recognition of this concern and our commitment to protecting and supporting the children in our preschool and working with partner agencies to achieve this.

This Policy falls within the established Child Protection and Safeguarding framework that is already in place in school.

At preschool strive to support and teach children about how to make positive choices and informed decisions so that they develop awareness and can protect themselves from all potential forms of sexual exploitation and abuse. As a preschool we promote healthy friendships and relationships through the preschool ethos and preschool policies. An awareness of the risk factors and signs and indicators of CSE is key for all staff as is how to access support and guidance.

The purpose of this policy is to create a considered and consistent approach to dealing with CSE at Brize Norton Village Preschool

Aims and objectives • To increase awareness and understanding of CSE within the preschool setting • To raise awareness of the risk factors and warning signs of CSE • To provide relevant information and guidance on CSE, which is accessible to staff, parents and carers • To provide a consistent approach when dealing with CSE • To make available support for pupils, parents/carers and staff in the event of concerns arising in relation to CSE • To enable those seeking help to feel secure and supported

There are key principles to bear in mind –

1. Sexual exploitation includes sexual, physical and emotional abuse, and, in some cases, neglect.
2. Children and young people do not make informed choices to enter or remain in sexual exploitation, but do so due to coercion, enticement, manipulation or desperation.
3. Young people under 16 cannot consent to sexual activity: sexual intercourse with children under the age of 13 is statutory rape. (Sexual Offences Act 2003)
4. Sexually exploited children and young people should be treated as victims of abuse, not as offenders.
5. Many sexually exploited young people have difficulty distinguishing between their own choices about sex and sexuality, and the sexual activities they are coerced into. This potential confusion should be handled with care and sensitivity by professionals.
6. The primary law enforcement effort must be made against the coercers and adults who sexually exploit young people. In some cases young people themselves may exploit other young people, and in these cases law enforcement action may also be necessary.

Vulnerability factors to CSE Children are more vulnerable to abuse through sexual exploitation if they have experience of one or more of the following: • Child sexual abuse • Domestic violence within the family • Family breakdown • Physical abuse and emotional deprivation • Bullying in or out of school

• Family involvement in sexual exploitation • Parents with a high level of vulnerabilities (drug/alcohol, mental health etc) • Drug/alcohol, mental health or other difficulties themselves • Being looked after in residential care • Going missing frequently

By virtue of regular contact with children, preschool staff are well placed to notice changes in behaviour and physical signs which may indicate involvement in sexual exploitation. Preschool staff should also be mindful of the risks posed by CSE and remain alert to the potential for this and need to respond immediately.

In the event of staff identifying concerns relating to CSE, this information should be shared immediately with the Designated Lead Safeguarding Officer. The concerns will be reviewed and appropriate action taken in line with the school Child Protection Policy and Procedures.

**CSE Support** A multi-agency approach will be adopted to ensure that holistic support is available

**Prevention** - Staff will be made aware of this policy and the importance of on-going vigilance and early intervention to prevent the likelihood for sexual exploitation and abuse occurring.

The issue of Child Sexual Exploitation will also be raised on different levels within the preschool and will be informed by support and guidance from the Local Authority and partner agencies as appropriate:

**Information and guidance** - This will provide positive guidance and advice to facilitate and support healthy personal and social development, along with e-safety issues. At an individual level :- where concerns are identified or suspected (through information received or disclosed) a response will be in line with the Child Protection Policy. All expressions of concern will be taken seriously and investigated.

It is accepted that all children and young people may potentially be at risk of online CSE and therefore, by way or response, Brize Norton Village Preschool has a robust E-Safety policy. Brize Norton Village Preschool will commit to having appropriate staff complete training on CSE to ensure that appropriate knowledge and skills are available to support the preschool community.

**Confidentiality** - We appreciate that some children may feel anxious about seeking help due to concerns about sharing of information and confidentiality. We always strive to share information on a 'need to know' basis and manage information discreetly and sensitively. Therefore, information will only be shared in the child or young persons' best interest.

Staff are legally bound to share information if they feel the child is at risk or is suffering from significant harm, and therefore complete confidentiality cannot be achieved.

**Parental Involvement** - As a preschool we always seek wherever possible to establish a positive partnership with parents and carer's and to work proactively to support children and their families.

If a concern is raised either by a child or a peer, it would be usual to initiate contact with home. It is often the case that the parent/carer will be invited to attend a meeting with the lead safeguarding officer. The concerns raised will be discussed and an action plan may be formulated to address concerns. In specific circumstances it may not be possible to contact the parents/carer prior to sharing information and concerns with the MASH. Professional guidance will be sought and every effort made to communicate with parents/carers as soon as possible whilst ensuring the safety and well-being of children.

**Monitoring and Evaluation** - As with all Child Protection and Safeguarding concerns within preschool, the identification or disclosure of CSE will be recorded and securely stored. Information will be shared on a 'need to know' basis to ensure the safety and well-being those involved.

Any communication with home, or meetings with the child will be recorded and the relevant bodies will be informed about issues or concerns.

Senior staff and Committee will evaluate the effectiveness of this policy and agree adjustments that may be necessary to address any on-going concerns. These will be shared with staff and parents/carers.

This Policy was adopted by: Brize Norton Village Preschool

On: 15th August 2024

Date to be reviewed: August 2025

Signed on behalf of provider: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of signatory: M.Dix - Chair of Preschool Committee

