**Cinder Ash Pre-School**

**Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.**

Cinder Ash is fully committed to our responsibility to safeguarding children from harm or abuse. The welfare of the children attending this setting is paramount and concerns about child abuse or risk to the child’s wellbeing and taken seriously. This policy applies to all staff, management, students and volunteers working in the setting, and families accessing the setting.

In accordance with the reformed EYFS (2021), Cinder Ash will have regard to the Government’s Statutory Guidance ‘Working Together to Safeguard Children’ (EYFS requirement 3.7). We also ensure the guidance of ‘Prevent duty guidance for England and Wales is adhered to. We will work within the guidelines set out by the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (LCSP) for Child Protection and Early Help. If our staff have concerns about children’s safety or welfare, the setting will notify agencies with statutory responsibilities without delay. This means the local children’s social care services and in emergencies, the police.

**In accordance with EYFS (2021) Cinder Ash shall:**

**. Commit to providing a safe and nurturing environment, where children are protect from harm and staff are alert to any issues at home or elsewhere (EYFS requirement, 3.4 and Prevent Duty).** The wellbeing, health, safety and development of the children attending this setting is paramount and concerns about child abuse will be taken seriously. This policy therefore compliments and a support a range of other polices, for instance Mobile Phone and Camera, e-safety, ICT, Medications, Whistle Blowing, and Recruitment. We are aware of peer-on-peer abuse within the setting and make all necessary adjustments to reduce the risk of this, including observations, developing talking about feelings and kindness at circle time, encouraging the social development of all children, and creating an atmosphere will children feel able to share their concerns whether with their key person or any other adult. It is clearly stated in Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2016 that the voice of the child should be listened to through set procedures.

**. Commit to ensuring that someone is available to take the lead responsibility for safeguarding (EYFS requirement 3.5).** This shall be the responsibility of Lucy Cooper, and in her absence this responsibility shall be Melissa Leuty’s, with both being designated safeguarding leads for the setting. Both Lucy and Melissa will have level 2 safeguarding training, alongside inter-agency training and refresh all of this at the minimum of every 3 years, whilst working through the LCSP six year pathway. They work together with a joint approach to ensure all aspects are covered. Both will provide support, advice and guidance to any other staff on an on-going basis, and on any specific safeguarding issues as required. They take lead responsibility for safeguarding and liaising with local statutory children’s services and with the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership. Safeguarding children concerns will be confidential and shared only on a need to know basis.

**. Commit to ensuring that staff, management, volunteers and students are safe and suitable to work with children at point of recruitment and remain so through their employment (EYFS requirements 3.9, 3.10, 3.11, 3.12, 3.14, 3.15, 3.16, 3.17, 3.18, 3.19).** Recruitment procedures will ensure the suitability of staff and volunteers working with children and will follow EYFS welfare requirements with regard to Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks and references. Where there is a delay in obtaining the enhanced DBS check, staff and volunteers will not have unsupervised contact with children. All 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 during their employment at the setting. There is a process in place that provides staff with opportunities to share such information.

**. Commit to meet our responsibilities under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, and your duty to refer to Disclosure and Barring Service where a member of staff is dismissed (or would have been, had the person not left the setting first) for harming a child or putting a child at risk of harm. (EYFS requirement 3.13, section 35 of Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006).** The setting has a clear procedure that will be implemented when an allegation has been made against a member of staff. The settings disciplinary procedure will inform any action in the event of any allegation. As a registered provider we will inform Ofsted of any allegations of serious harm or abuse by any person living, working or looking after children at the premises (whether the allegations relate to harm or abuse committed on the premises or elsewhere).The setting will also notify Ofsted of the action taken in respect to the allegations. When an allegation is upheld the setting will make a referral to the DBS, in accordance with our responsibilities under the Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.Where there is an indication or evidence to suggest that a member of staff failed to execute their duty to safeguard a child/(ren) at the setting or elsewhere she/he will be subjected to the setting disciplinary procedure.

**. Commit to ensure that all staff, management and volunteers are trained and remain up to date in child protection procedures. This includes recognising the signs of abuse or neglect and inappropriate behaviors displayed by others members of staff (EYFS requirements 3.6, 3.5 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015, chapter 2 section 4).** All staff will be required to undertake the settings safeguarding introduction training within their first week of employment. Training will need to be refreshed every 3 years. Alongside this it is mandatory their prevent, FGM, and breast ironing is complete within the induction period and reviewed at least every three years. We then follow the LCSP pathway for safeguarding to ensure we are compliant and well prepared. Committee chair is also requirement to keep safeguarding training up to date, alongside as many committee members as possible. All staff will be made aware of possible indicators of child abuse and the procedures for recording and reporting, through staff training both internal and external. The staff will be made aware of the importance of recognising and reporting inappropriate behavior displayed by children and other members of staff, or any other person working with the children e.g. inappropriate sexual comments; excessive one to one attention beyond the requirements of their usual roles and responsibilities; or inappropriate sharing of images (See Whistle Blowing Policy). Procedures are implemented for identifying, recording and reporting concerns.

We are aware of the guidelines of the Prevent Duty 2015 (revised 2019), and are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard 'to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. Staff are able to identify children who are vulnerable to radicalisation, and we encourage British Values within the setting to enable them to challenge an extremist view. All staff have British values and prevent, FGM, breast ironing and safeguarding training within their induction period.

All staff are made aware of their duty to report any known cases of female genital mutilation, having completed training within their induction period, and be aware of signs of this. They will follow regular safeguarding procedure for this, sharing concerns immediately to designated safeguarding lead, or directly to Lincolnshire Children’s safeguarding board or the police if they so wish.

The setting provides a safe environment in which children feel valued, can learn and develop, feel secure and are encouraged to talk and to be listened to.

* Cinder Ash Pre-School will not tolerate any parent/carer/staff/volunteers on the premises under the influence of alcohol or any other substance. Any parent under the influence of alcohol and or any other substance will be refused admission and Cinder Ash Pre-School will determine if it is appropriate and safe for the child to leave with them. If a child is kept on the premises in this situation other adults authorised to collect the child will be contacted. If there is no other authorised adult is available to collect the child, the setting will contact the police in accordance with the uncollected child policy.
* The use of mobile phones and cameras in the setting is covered in our safeguarding procedure and Mobile phone and Camera Policy. This includes the use of other electronic devices with imaging and sharing capabilities such as smartwatches with camera, and any staff member or visitor with a smartwatch with a camera, will be asked to remove the watch. Other smartwatches will be accepted but asked to turn on airplane mode whilst in setting.

We are also aware of the range of abuse a child may be witness to and ensure all staff are aware of the different types of abuse a child may be subject or witness to, including physical, sexual, emotional, financial, neglect, spiritual and domestic abuse.

We have recently ensured all staff have completed domestic abuse training, with Melissa and Lucy as safeguarding leads done in depth learning regarding this area. We have looked into the effect this has on the child, how we may notice this and how we can support the child and family.

In terms of supporting family, both Lucy and Melissa are trained in Operation Encompass, a police and schools early intervention safeguarding information sharing partnership which supports children experiencing domestic violence and abuse. Not only does this mean our children who need support can be identified, but also that that support is put in place immediately.

 This policy will be implemented in conjunction with the safeguarding children procedure.

**Concerns regarding safeguarding children will be directed to the following in accordance with the LSCP’s policy and the requirements of the EYFS.**

* Lincolnshire County Council Children’s Services Customer Service Centre (CSC): Office hours Telephone 01522 782111 or out of hours 01522 782333.
* Where there is an allegation against a member of staff or a person living or working on the premises (this may include allegation against other children of a safeguarding nature) we will also liaise with the LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) – Direct line 01522 554674 or Ofsted 03001234666 (EYFS requirement 3.8).
* Lincolnshire Police (spalding) – 999 or non emergency number 0300 111 0300/101
* Channel referral email to : channel@lincs.pnn.police.uk
* Lincolnshire County Council’s Prevent Officer on 01522 555367 or via email at prevent@lincolnshire.gov.uk
* Lincolnshire County Council Police Prevent Team on 01522 885350 or via email at prevent@lincs.pnn.police.uk

The setting will implement the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children procedure Escalation Policy, if there are concerns that a referral to the Customer Service Centre (CSC) has not been dealt with appropriately.

<https://lincolnshirescb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/pr_prof_resolution.html>

This policy should be read in conjunction with our safeguarding procedure which sets out our processes for responding to concerns.

**Although attendance rates and session occupancy has returned to normal after the changes during the current COVID-19 outbreak, we are aware that lockdowns or reduced attendance could occur again. In this instance we will continue to keep in contact via telephone calls and tapestry where we will support parents. Any children known to us under Child protection or having recently come off TAC/CP, will be given weekly calls to check in on the family and provide any necessary help or support they may need. Our children who have SEN support will also be regularly checked in on. We have shared links with families to support with any mental health issues, resources to engage children in learning, and regular videos of staff within setting dancing or reading stories.**

**Regular contact will be upheld with other professionals and outside agencies, through telephone or video calls.**

**The safeguarding lead doesn’t have to be on site but must always be contactable. Both Lucy Cooper and Melissa Leuty are Designated safeguarding leads and have completed relevant training in relation to this and are following the six year pathway set out by the LCSP. One is always contactable via telephone and Charlotte Whatling (deputy manager) is also progressing through the pathway.**

This policy was adopted by Cinder Ash Pre-School.

Signed on behalf of the setting by:

-------------------------------------------Chairperson ---------------------------------------------Manager

Date: 4th March 2025 Review Date: March 2026