



## **Safeguarding Statement for Parents and Carers**

Little Foxes Forest School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects everyone to share this commitment. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as;

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

### **Our responsibilities**

As an early year's and childcare provider we have a lawful duty to safeguard the welfare of children. We have in place robust safeguarding policies and procedures to support and provide information about how and what action we will take when there are concerns about a child. Concerns will be brought to the attention of Lizzie Staite designated safeguarding lead, who will decide upon the necessity for a referral to children's social care. In Bristol, First Response is the front door to children's services.

The settings Acting Designated Safeguarding Lead is Lizzie Staite. Our deputy DSL is Marina Liso and the Child protection Officer is Nadia Porter.

### **Family support**

We understand that parenting at any stage can be a challenge. Little Foxes Forest School will work in partnership with parents and carers who may be affected by difficulties that could be adversely affecting the wellbeing of the child. This can include providing parents and carers with information, advice, and resources as well as signposting to family support services.

### **Information sharing**

Little Foxes Forest School will be proactive in sharing information as early as possible to help identify, assess and respond to risks or concerns about the safety and welfare of children, whether this is when problems are first emerging, or where a child is already known to children's social care.

The setting's DSL will discuss child protection concerns with parents and carers before referring to other agencies, however, there may be occasions when Little Foxes Forest School may need to contact another agency such as First Response before informing parents and carers. The Data Protection Act 2018 and UK General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR) do not prevent the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe.

### **Transfer of safeguarding records**

To promote a child's welfare and thus their educational needs, records relating to concerns about children will be passed on to the child's next educational setting. Records will be transferred safely and securely.

If you have any concerns about your child, or another child at Little Foxes Forest School please contact the DSL.

Little Foxes Forest School's child protection policy explains the types of harm and abuse that children may face and the actions we will take to safeguard children. Our child protection policy is available to read on our website. Alternatively, please contact the DSL for a copy of our child protection policy and any other related policies.

