

General Welfare Requirement: Safeguarding and Promoting Children's Welfare

The provider must take necessary steps to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Safeguarding Children

1.10(a) Social networking

Policy statement

The internet provides a number of benefits for staff. However when someone is identified with the setting or discusses their work, they are expected to behave appropriately when on the internet. The principles set out in this policy should always be followed. If in doubt then details should be discussed in the first instance with the setting manager.

Staff are in a professional position and are responsible for the care and education of children. Therefore they must not engage in activities on the internet which might bring the setting or its associated employees into disrepute.

Aim

- That our duty to safeguard children is maintained
- That the setting is not exposed to legal risk
- That the reputation of the setting is not adversely affected
- That our users are able to clearly distinguish where information provided via social networking applications is legitimately representative of the setting
- That we do not damage our reputation
- That we recognise our legal responsibilities

EYFS key themes and commitments

| A Unique Child | Positive Relationships | Enabling Environments | Learning and Development |
|------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1.3 Keeping safe | 2.1 Respecting each other | 3.4 The wider context | |

Procedures

- All staff/volunteers should bear in mind that information they share through social networking applications, even though they are on private spaces, are still subject to

copyright, data protection and freedom of information legislation, the safeguarding vulnerable groups act 2006 and other legislation.

- All staff/volunteers should be aware it is not appropriate to share work-related information whether written or pictorial in this way.
- There will be no mention, either positive or negative, of attending children or their families.
- Professionalism must be considered at all times. Staff/volunteers should not actively encourage parents as friends on social networking sites. If a staff member is friends with a parent prior to their child attending the setting, care should be taken to not discuss the setting, their child or any other child in relation to the setting on any site.
- There will be no uploading of photographs from the setting of staff, or children and their families on any site.
- Any communications or content you publish that causes damage to the setting or any of its employees, children or families may amount to misconduct or gross misconduct and could lead to dismissal.
- We are committed to helping you stay safe on-line. There are a variety of organisations that can help you if you encounter a problem on-line: CEOP (child Exploitation Onling Protection Centre); Social networking site reporting systems. If you need support or advice please contact the Manager.

Legal framework

- Data Protection Act 1998
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

Further guidance

- Information Sharing: Practitioners' Guide (HMG 2006)

This policy was adopted by

Young Discoverers

On

1 May 2013 (date)

Signed

Name of signatory

Mrs Karen Keene

Role of signatory

Manager

