**Safeguarding Children Policy**

**Introduction**

Adventurous Acorns (The company) is a company run for the following purpose:

 Providing Babysitting and Nannying to children of all ages.

The Company is based in:

Bournemouth

The Company has adopted this safeguarding child policy and expects every adult working or helping at the Company to support it and comply with it.

**Purpose of the Policy**

This policy is intended to protect children who receive any service from us. Under this policy, the term children shall mean any person who is under the age of eighteen years old.

The Company believes that no child or young person should experience abuse or harm and is committed to the protection of children and young people. This policy is intended to provide guidance and overarching principles to who represent us, to guide our approach to child protection and safeguarding.

**The Risks to Children**

Children can be vulnerable to different forms of abuse and harm. It is important to recognise that abuse and hard to children can cover a wide range of circumstances and behaviours. For example, children can be at risk of:

* Physical or emotional abuse
* Neglect
* Sexual abuse
* Female genital mutilation (FGM)
* Grooming and exploitation
* Trafficking and modern slavery
* Exposure to or inflicted domestic abuse
* Bullying or cyber bullying
* Exposure to other inappropriate content or behaviour, such as violence or criminal behaviour
* Self-harm
* Physical harm when engaging in activities without adequate supervision

The casual factors of any such harm and/or abuse can also be wide-ranging. For example, children can be placed at risk by family members or by members of the community.

**Safeguarding Principles**

Safeguarding children from harm and abuse is an essential responsibility for our Company. We are committed to ensuring that any child who comes into contact with our services is properly safeguarded.

Every person under this policy holds responsibility for:

* Remaining alter and aware of possible safeguarding risks to children
* Guarding children against harmful environments with appropriate actions (for example, adequate supervision or ensuring safe environments)
* Taking positive steps to maintain the safety and wellbeing of children engaging with us as a Company
* Reporting concerns expeditiously and appropriately, in line with child protection procedures
* Understanding the duty to report specific concerns (and understanding how this interplays with confidentiality)
* Challenging and inappropriate or harmful behaviour of any other adult and reporting this accordingly
* Acting appropriately in the presence of children
* Not taking any inappropriate risks
* Not smoking, drinking or taking any form for illicit substances in the presence of children

**Safeguarding Officers**

The management and oversight of all child safeguarding matters is allocated to:

Arden Nolan-Meharg

**Confidentiality and Data protection**

All personal information we may process relating to children, shall be processed, and stored in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

**Responding to a Safeguarding Concern**

Where a child is at immediate risk of serious harm, any adult present should call 999.

Where any child makes a disclosure relating to harm or abuse to an adult, it is important for that adult to:

* Listen calmly and carefully, showing that their views are taken seriously
* Provide an appropriate and honest level of reassurance
* Avoid interrogating children and asking probing, intrusive and/or leading questions
* Avoid making false promises regarding secrets and confidentiality with the child (because any concern of harm/abuse may need to be shared with local authorities)
* Make a confidential *written* record of the discussion either during the discussion or immediately afterwards. The record should include the key details of the disclosure together with any relevant times, dates, places, and people concerned. Audio and video of children making disclosures should be avoided.

Upon receiving and safeguarding concerns, we shall consult with any other relevant persons and will make the appropriate referrals to the relevant authorities, such as the applicable Local Authority Childrens Department.

**Safeguarding children at the Company**

First Aid

We have a First Aid Policy at Adventurous Acorns which can be read on our website:

Any accident or injury concerning a child should be formally reported by Arden Nolan-Meharg.

Consent Forms

We shall always obtain written consent forms from parent or guardians in the following circumstances:

On our first meeting before the children are enrolled into Adventurous Acorns care.

Consent will be obtained via:

 Digital forms

Consent forms will include emergency contact details and will set out any specific safety needs/requirements for children.

All consent forms will be kept secure and shall be stored in accordance with The Data Protection Act 2018.

**Managing behaviour of Children generally**

Whenever we are faced with challenging or inappropriate behaviour from a child or with conflict between children, we will:

* Treat each child fairly and equally
* Approach the situation in a calm and neutral manner
* Only ever use physical restraint/ intervention in order to protect the immediate safety of a person, for example to prevent and injury or harm either to the child or others
* Wherever it is justified to physically restrain a child or to physically intervene, the amount of force used should be kept to the absolute minimum taking into account the risk posed.
* Make a written record of the incident and ensure this is reported appropriately

**Managing Risks Posed by other Children**

It is important to recognise that children can face harm from their peers. This can commonly take the form of bullying. Bullying can be defined as any behaviour which is:

* Repeated; and
* Has the intention of hurting somebody either physically or emotionally.

Bullying can sometimes be motivated by prejudices based on certain groups, for example gender, race, religion, sexual orientation. Bullying can often include:

* Physical harm perpetrated against another child
* Name calling and threats
* Cyber bullying (threats and abusive comments made via technology)

Any instance of bullying or concern relating to possible bullying between children at an event or outing arranged by Adventurous Acorns will be delt with by Arden Nolan-Meharg in the first instance as followed:

All children shall be spoken to individually to ascertain the facts. Where appropriate children will receive a warning and the relevant support and education needed to resolve the issue at hand.

Where any behaviour amounting to bullying continues following this, the following steps will be taken:

 The child or children who have been found responsible for bullying will be spoken to again and parents will be informed and asked to attend a meeting to discuss and help resolve the issue.

**Photography**

Our Photographs

On some occasions, we may take photographs featuring children. We recognise that photography of children carries risks, such as:

* The potential of images being re-used, shared, adapted in a damaging or inappropriate manner
* The general risk of sharing images and the impact this could have on child’s public image as they grow older

In view of these risks, we will:

* Always ask for written permission from parents/guardians before taking and sharing any images of children
* Always ensure that parents/guardians are properly informed on how the image will be used and shared
* Always ensure that the child’s identity is protected as far as is possible within any published material
* Ask that parents, guardians, children and any other person connected to them who may wish to share any of our professional images which feature other children to refrain from doing so unless they have permission from the other children’s parents/ guardians
* Always store photos in accordance with The Data Protection Act 2018

This policy is approved and robustly endorsed by Adventurous Acorns and is due for review every 3 years.

Signed: Arden Nolan-Meharg

Date: 09/06/2023