

Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

All childcare settings have a legal duty to protect children from the risk of radicalisation and being drawn into extremism. There are many reasons why a child might be vulnerable to radicalisation, including:

- feeling alienated or alone
- seeking a sense of identity or individuality
- suffering from mental health issues such as depression
- desire for adventure or wanting to be part of a larger cause
- associating with others who hold extremist beliefs

Signs of Radicalisation

Signs that a child might be at risk of radicalisation include:

- changes in behaviour, for example becoming withdrawn or aggressive
- claiming that terrorist attacks and violence are justified
- viewing violent extremist material online
- possessing or sharing violent extremist material

Logging an Incident

Oakbridge Little Learners has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). If a member of staff suspects that a child is at risk of becoming radicalised, they will record any relevant information or observations on a Logging a concern form and refer the matter to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

All information about the suspected abuse or disclosure, or concern about radicalisation, will be recorded on the Logging a concern form as soon as possible after the event. The record should include:

- date of the disclosure, or the incident, or the observation causing concern
- date and time at which the record was made
- name and date of birth of the child involved
- a factual report of what happened. If recording a disclosure, you must use the child's own words
- name, signature and job title of the person making the record.

The record will be given to Child Protection Office (CPO) who will decide on the appropriate course of action.

For concerns about child abuse, the DSL or CPO will contact first response/front door. The CPO will follow up all referrals to first response/front door in writing within 48 hours. If a member of staff thinks that the incident has not been dealt with properly, they may contact first response directly.

For minor concerns regarding radicalisation, the DSL or CPO will contact the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) or Local Authority Prevent Co-Ordinator (if applicable). For more serious concerns the DSL or CPO will contact the Police on the non-emergency number (101), or the antiterrorist hotline on 0800 789 321. For urgent concerns the DSL or CPO will contact the Police using 999.

Promoting Awareness Among Staff

Oakbridge Little Learners promotes awareness of child abuse and the risk of radicalisation through its staff training and ensures that:

- the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) has relevant experience and receives appropriate training in safeguarding and the Prevent Duty and is aware of the Channel Programme and how to access it
- safe recruitment practices are followed for all new staff all staff have a copy of this extremism and radicalization policy, understand its contents and are vigilant to signs of abuse, neglect or radicalisation
- all staff are aware of their statutory duties regarding the disclosure or discovery of child abuse, and concerns about radicalisation
- all staff receive basic safeguarding training
- all staff receive basic training in the Prevent Duty
- Learn more about Channel General Awareness by searching for it online.

Peer on Peer Abuse

Children are vulnerable to abuse by their peers. Peer-on-peer abuse is taken seriously by staff and will be subject to the same child protection procedures as other forms of abuse.

If Peer-on-Peer Abuse is suspected or disclosed, staff will follow the same procedures as set out above for logging a concern.