



CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

POLICY

K.S.I.M.C. of Birmingham is committed to providing a safe and secure environment in which children can thrive and develop and where all aspects of their safety, well being and welfare will be protected.

This involves having a clear understanding of individual roles and responsibilities in regard to the care and protection of children.

To this end, our safeguarding policy and the associated procedure is committed towards children and plays a vital role in protecting children from all types of harm and abuse.

This policy and the associated procedure applies to all roles and posts held, whether fulfilled by a volunteer or paid staff member connected to K.S.I.M.C. of Birmingham, its Sub-Committees, Task Forces and Subordinate Groups therein. Furthermore, this policy and the associated procedure apply to said individuals irrespective of whether they are members of K.S.I.M.C. of Birmingham.

K.S.I.M.C of Birmingham duly recognises policies and procedures laid down by Birmingham City Council and OFSTED. As such, a suitably approved policy and associated procedure approved by these bodies will be deemed sufficient for these purposes.

Aims

- Each member of staff or volunteer will be provided with all the necessary information and training regarding child protection, knowledge of the signs of abuse, and what to do should concerns arise regarding possible abuse or neglect.
- To promote awareness that child abuse and neglect exists in society in many forms including physical, emotional, sexual and verbal as well as neglect and domestic violence.
- To ensure all staff and volunteers are aware of their duty of care in relation to the protection of children and act in accordance with the recommended.

Policy Statement

The K.S.I.M.C. of Birmingham believes all children have the right to feel safe and families have the right to expect that their children, whilst in attendance at any K.S.I.M.C. of Birmingham event or associated event run therein will be protected from all types of abuse.



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They will communicate with the child in a way that is appropriate to their age, understanding and preference. The nature of this communication, depending upon the seriousness of the concern, may require advice from the Children's Advice and Support Service (CASS) and the Police, to ensure the safety of the child and any subsequent investigation is not jeopardised.

Where concerns arise as a result of information given by a child it is important to reassure the child but not to promise confidentiality.

The President of K.S.I.M.C. of Birmingham is the designated contact for child protection liaison and the following are duly appointed as deputy designate contacts:

**Chair of Education Board
Principal of Muhammadi Madrassa
Head of Muhammadi Nursery
Head of ME School of Excellence
Chair of Subcommittees**

In the absence of a 'Chair, Principal or Head', as detailed above responsibility will lie with the appointed 'Deputy Chair, Deputy Principal or Deputy Head'.

In the event of any occurrence, the President should be informed immediately.

The concerns for referral of a child, as appropriate to their age and understanding, to the CASS requires the prior agreement of parents, unless such a discussion would place the child at risk of significant harm.

- In the case that consent is refused, circumstances may justify the disclosure, taking into account what is being disclosed, for what purposes and to whom;
- In the absence of consent, the law recognises disclosure of confidential information without consent as justified in the interest of the public to prevent harm to others. The amount of confidential information disclosed, and the number of people to whom it is disclosed should be no more than is strictly necessary to meet the public interest in the safeguarding of a child.

If the referral has been made to the CASS by telephone, a written confirmation should follow within 48 hours and it will be agreed with the recipient of the referral what the child and parents will be told, by whom and when.

In recognising the indicators of abuse and neglect, it is not the responsibility of staff or volunteers to prove that abuse or neglect has occurred or who is responsible, only that there is a reasonable concern or well founded suspicion that abuse or neglect has occurred.



Types of Child Abuse

Child abuse is a term commonly used to refer to different types of child maltreatment. The definitions provided in this policy are in accordance with Section 10 and Section 38 of the Children (Care and Protection) Act 2016.

- **Physical abuse**

Physical abuse may involve hitting, throwing, shaking, burning or scalding, drowning or suffocating and biting. It may also be caused when a parent feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes ill health to a child.

- **Neglect abuse**

This involves the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and psychological needs which is likely to result in serious impairment to their ill health and development. It may also involve parent or carer failing to provide food, shelter, clothing, warmth and medical care. Leaving children alone and unsupervised is another example of neglect.

- **Emotional abuse**

This involves the persistent emotional ill treatment which is likely to cause serious harm to the child's emotional development. It may involve verbal threats, taunting and shouting which can lead to loss of confidence and self confidence and self-esteem, making a child become nervous and withdrawn.

- **Sexual abuse**

This may involve forcing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not they are aware of what is happening. There is physical contact, penetrative acts, and exposing children to pornographic material- including videos.

Signs and Behaviour which may give cause for concern

- Child doing something which is unusual for that child;
- Child over- friendly with strangers;
- Frequent mood changes;
- Unusual eating patterns, i.e. always hungry;
- Change of appearance;
- Quiet and withdrawn, a loner;
- Tired looking;
- Seductive behaviour;
- Frequent bruises; particularly on fleshy parts;
- Gives the impression of being unloved and unhappy.

The Role of the Executive Committee

- To provide support to the designated persons, staff and volunteers in the implementation of this policy and associated procedure;
- Endorse and encourage participation in child protection training;



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- Respect the confidentiality of children, families and staff or volunteers in the process of child protection.
- To make available, the process for undertaking Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks for all staff and volunteers.

Designated Persons

The designated and deputy designated contacts, as detailed above will be responsible for:

- Updating the Child Protection Code of Practice, Policy and Procedures;
- Contribute to the core assessment and the analysis of findings as required and requested by the CASS, including providing information held about the child or parents;
- Keep careful and detailed contemporary notes. Record any unusual events and make a distinction between events reported by the volunteer or staff member and those who may have actually witnessed the event. Notes should be timed, dated and signed legibly and kept in a safe and secure place so that they are not able to be accessed by unauthorised personnel.
- Request the CASS convene a child protection conference, if there are serious concerns that the child may not otherwise be adequately safeguarded.
- Once the initial assessment is complete, together with all other relevant agencies, further action can be decided. Involve the child and parents in these discussions, unless this may place the child at risk of significant harm again, for example, the child may be physically abused for talking about the abuse. If there are concerns about a parent's ability to protect their child, consider carefully what the parents should be told, when and by whom, taking account of the child's welfare.

The procedures outlined in this policy are in accordance with these key documents

- The Education and Adoption Act 2016;
- The Children Act 2016;
- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2008;
- Data Protection Act 2000;
- The Human Rights Act 1998 (Article 8);
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2007;
- What do you do if you are worried a child is being abused? 2006;
- The Protection of Children Act 1999 and The Childcare Act 2006;
- Every Child Matters Framework: 5 Life Outcomes;
- Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB). (Section 22);
- Children Services Guide for Professionals (Section 22).



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This policy provides direction to staff and volunteers of K.S.I.M.C. of Birmingham in regard to their roles and responsibilities when responding to concerns about child abuse and neglect.