

Aldersbrook Primary School – Child Protection Policy

Each member of the forest school team will receive a copy of Aldersbrook Primary School's 'Staff Handbook'

In line with school policy we must:

- Treat **ALL** children with respect
- Always lead by example and show good conduct at all times.
- Guarantee that at all times there is more than one adult present during the forest schools session supporting the children, always make sure that at least one adult remains within sight or hearing of other.
- Never leave any child alone.
- Respect children's right to personal privacy.
- Encourage the children to feel sufficiently caring towards other children within the forest school group to be able to point out attitudes or behaviours they do not like.
- Be aware that any caring or physical contact with a child can be misinterpreted.
- Recognise that caution is required in any moments when an adult is discussing sensitive issues with children.

In line with school policy we must not:

- Have inappropriate physical or verbal contact with any of the children.
- Allow yourself to be drawn in to inappropriate attention seeking behavior.
- Make suggestions/derogatory remarks or gestures in front of children.
- Jump to conclusions about others without checking all of the facts available.
- Exaggerate or trivialize child abuse issues.
- Rely on your good name to protect you.
- Believe 'it could never happen to me.'
- Take a chance when common sense, policy and practice suggest another more prudent approach.

What to do

If a child or adult discloses to you abuse by someone else.

- Allow him/her to speak without interruption, accepting what is said. Do not start any investigation.
- Alleviate feelings of guilt and isolation whilst passing no judgement.
- Let the child/adult know that you are glad that they have shared this information with you.
- Advise the child/adult that you must pass on the information.

If you suspect a child is being abused

- Report the matter to the head teacher and the child protection officer.

If you receive an allegation about any adult or about yourself.

- Immediately pass this information to the head teacher.
- Try to ensure that no one is placed in a position that could cause further compromise.

In all cases

- Record the facts as said by the child /adult, do not change any language used.
- Always refer and never investigate.

Please refer to the schools child protection policy and procedures.

Policy agreed September 2021

Policy to be reviewed September 2022