Unit 7, Weston Barns, Hitchin Road, Weston, Hertfordshire, SG4 7AX
Tel: 01462 790 152 Email: info@risingstars-wraparound.co.uk

Safeguarding Policy

Rising Stars Wrap-Around Clubs Ltd. is dedicated to fostering a culture of safety where the children in our care are safeguarded from abuse, harm, and radicalisation. We are committed to addressing any incidents or concerns regarding a child's safety promptly and appropriately. Our child protection procedures align with relevant legislation and follow the guidance issued by the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).
A Designated Safeguarding Lead is always available during Club sessions to coordinate child protection matters and liaise with external agencies such as Social Care, LSCB, and Ofsted.

Our safeguarding team are:

- Designated safeguarding lead Sophie Potticary: 07715057584
- Deputy DSL Elaine Gregory: 07815 619648
- Deputy DSL Alison Draper: 07803 451076
- Deputy DSL Karen Ashton: 07545425397

Child Abuse and Neglect

Child abuse refers to any form of physical, emotional, or sexual mistreatment, or a lack of care that results in injury or harm. Abuse can be inflicted directly or through failure to protect a child from harm. Below are the primary categories of child abuse and neglect:

- **Emotional Abuse**: Persistent emotional mistreatment leading to severe negative effects on a child's emotional development. This includes making the child feel worthless, unloved, or inadequate. Emotional abuse can occur independently or in conjunction with other forms of abuse.
- **Physical Abuse**: Involves causing physical harm through actions such as hitting, shaking, poisoning, burning, suffocating, or drowning. It can also occur when a parent or carer intentionally feigns illness or causes harm to a child.
- **Sexual Abuse**: Enticing or forcing a child into sexual activities, regardless of their understanding of the situation. This can involve both physical contact and non-contact
- activities, such as showing explicit material or encouraging inappropriate sexual behaviour.
- **Neglect**: Consistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and emotional needs, including adequate food, clothing, shelter, protection from harm, proper supervision, and access to medical care.

Signs of Child Abuse and Neglect

Indicators of potential abuse and neglect may include:

- Significant changes in behaviour
- Deterioration in general well-being
- Unexplained bruises or marks
- Disturbing comments from a child
- Suspected abuse or neglect outside the Club setting (e.g., at home, including potential risks such as female genital mutilation or exposure to domestic abuse)
- Inappropriate behaviour by staff or others (e.g., inappropriate comments, excessive one-on-one attention, sharing explicit images)

If Abuse is Suspected or Disclosed

When a child discloses abuse, staff members will:

- Reassure the child, emphasising that they are not to blame
- Listen without questioning or prompting further details
- Ensure the child knows the issue will be addressed
- Record the disclosure immediately (see 'Logging a Concern' below)

If staff members witness or suspect abuse, they will immediately document the concern using the 'Logging a Concern' form. In cases where a third party expresses concern, we will encourage them to contact Social Services directly or explain that we are legally obligated to do so.

Peer-on-Peer Abuse

Children can also experience abuse from their peers. Peer-on-peer abuse will be treated with the same seriousness as other forms of abuse and will follow the same protection procedures. Staff are aware of the risks posed by technology, especially in the context of bullying and abusive behaviours. Signs of potential peer-on-peer abuse include:

- Sexual activity or sexting, particularly among primary school-aged children
- Significant differences in age or power between children involved
- Evidence of threats, bribes, or coercion

Extremism and Radicalisation

In line with legal requirements, all childcare settings must protect children from radicalisation and extremism. Various factors can make a child more vulnerable, such as:

- Feeling isolated or alienated
- Struggling with mental health issues like depression
- Seeking a sense of belonging or adventure
- Associating with others who hold extremist beliefs

Signs of Radicalisation

Indicators that a child may be at risk of radicalisation include:

- Noticeable changes in behaviour (e.g., aggression or withdrawal)
- Justification of terrorist acts of violence
- Viewing or sharing extremist content online

Logging a Concern

Any concerns related to child abuse or radicalisation should be documented immediately on the 'Logging a Concern' form. The record must include:

- Date and time of the disclosure, incident, or observation
- Child's name and date of birth
- A factual account of the incident or disclosure (using the child's words if possible)
- Name, signature, and job title of the person making the record

This record will be passed to the DSL, who will decide the appropriate actions. In most cases, the DSL will liaise with the school or other agencies.

Allegations Against Staff

If an allegation of child abuse is made against a staff member, the following steps will be taken:

- The allegation will be documented on an Incident Record form, with witnesses confirming the entry.
- The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and Ofsted will be notified.
- If necessary, the staff member may be suspended during the investigation.
- A referral may be made to the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Staff Awareness and Training

The Club ensures that:

- Designated CPOs have the relevant training and experience in safeguarding and Prevent Duty
- Staff receive regular safeguarding training, including awareness of radicalisation risks
- Safe recruitment practices are followed for new employees
- All staff are familiar with the Safeguarding Policy and know how to respond to concerns

Use of Mobile Phones, Cameras, and Electronic Devices
Photographs of children will only be taken with parental consent. The Club's designated camera or iPad will be used for photos, and no other personal devices should be used by staff, children, or visitors to take photographs. For more details, refer to our Mobile Phone Policy.

Sharing of Images
Sharing images of children is strictly prohibited unless necessary for club use and only if parental consent is granted.

Emergency Contact Information

Designated Safeguarding Team:

- Designated safeguarding lead Sophie Potticary: 07715 057584
- Deputy DSL Elaine Gregory: 07815 619648
- Deputy DSL Alison Draper: 07803 451076
- Deputy DSL Karen Ashton: 07545 425397

Emergency Contacts:

- Police: 101 (non-emergency) or 999 (emergency)
- Anti-terrorist Hotline: 0800 789 321
- NSPCC: 0808 800 500
- Ofsted: 0300 123 4666

Updated by: Rising Stars Wrap-Around Clubs Ltd.
Date: 01/09/2026
Review Date: 01/09/2027
Signed: Z Garvey

Written in compliance with the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2024): Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements: Child Protection [3.4-3.8] and Suitable People [3.9-3.13].