St. Andrew's Montessori
Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy (EYFS)

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1. Statement of Intent

At St. Andrew's Montessori, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is our highest priority. We are committed to providing a safe, nurturing and inclusive early years environment where children feel secure, valued and listened to.

Safeguarding is embedded into daily practice and is the responsibility of everyone working within the setting.

2. Safeguarding Leadership

Principal & Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Nina O'Neil

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSLs): Zurina Snaith and Uzma Anverally

A DSL or Deputy DSL is available at all times during operating hours.

3. Legal Framework

This policy is written in accordance with the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), Keeping Children Safe in Education, Working Together to Safeguard Children, the Children Act 1989 & 2004, and the Equality Act 2010.

4. Safeguarding Culture

The setting promotes a strong safeguarding culture where staff maintain professional curiosity, listen to children and act promptly on any concerns.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

All staff, volunteers and students are responsible for safeguarding children and must be alert to signs of abuse or neglect.

The DSL oversees safeguarding practice, referrals, record keeping and staff training.

6. Types of Abuse

Physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and neglect.

This includes child-on-child abuse, domestic abuse and online safety concerns.

7. Responding to Concerns or Disclosures

Staff listen carefully, reassure the child and do not promise confidentiality.

Concerns are reported immediately to the DSL or Deputy DSL and recorded factually.

8. Record Keeping and Confidentiality

Safeguarding records are accurate, confidential and stored securely.

Information is shared on a need-to-know basis only.

9. Safer Recruitment and Training

The setting follows safer recruitment procedures including enhanced DBS checks.

All staff receive safeguarding induction and regular updates.

10. Local Authority and External Contacts

Children's Social Care (MASH): 020 7527 7400

Email: CSCTReferrals@islington.gov.uk

LADO: LADO@islington.gov.uk

Police: 999 (Emergency) | 101 (Non-Emergency)

NSPCC: 0808 800 5000

Childline: 0800 1111

Ofsted: 0300 123 1231

11. EYFS Safeguarding Flowchart

Concern identified or disclosure made.

Record concern immediately.

Report to DSL or Deputy DSL without delay.

DSL decides on next steps and makes referrals where required.

Ongoing support and review.

12. Policy Review

This policy is reviewed annually or when safeguarding guidance changes.

Principal & DSL: Nina O'Neil

13. Whistleblowing

St. Andrew's Montessori is committed to a culture of openness, transparency and accountability.

All staff have a duty to report concerns about unsafe, illegal or unethical practice, including concerns about the conduct of colleagues.

Concerns should be reported to the Principal or DSL. If the concern relates to the Principal, or if staff feel unable to raise concerns internally, they may contact the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) or the NSPCC Whistleblowing Advice Line.

NSPCC Whistleblowing Helpline: 0800 028 0285

Staff who raise concerns in good faith will be supported and protected from victimisation or detriment.