



Child Protection Policy & Safeguarding at The Playhouse Foundation

At The Playhouse Foundation, the safety and wellbeing of every child is our highest priority. We are committed to protecting children from harm and ensuring that all staff, tutors, and volunteers create safe and supportive environments at home, in school, and in the community.

Our Commitment

- Every child has the right to feel safe, secure, and protected from harm.
- We recognise that some children, including disabled children, can be more vulnerable to abuse, and we take extra steps to protect them.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility – all staff, consultants, and volunteers must act on concerns without delay.
- We work closely with parents, schools, and safeguarding partners such as Hampshire County Council to keep children safe.

What We Do

- Provide training: All staff complete accredited safeguarding and Prevent training each year and read the latest Keeping Children Safe in Education guidance.
- Report concerns: Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Deputy are available at all times. Concerns are acted on quickly and may be shared with Children's Social Care or the police if needed.
- Respect confidentiality: Information is shared only with those who need to know, and never with a promise to "keep a secret."
- Promote safe environments: We help children feel heard, supported, and able to learn in a secure setting.

Roles and Responsibilities

- All staff and tutors are responsible for spotting concerns, recording them accurately, and reporting them immediately.
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) ensures referrals are made to social care or the police where necessary and that staff are fully trained.
- The Deputy DSL provides support in the absence of the DSL.

Our Safeguarding Leads:

- DSL: Victoria Stanley – victoria@theplayhousefoundation.org.uk
- Deputy DSL: Julian Sykes – JSykes@tormeadschool.org.uk

Key Safeguarding Principles

- Children's safety comes first, even if it means contacting social care or the police without informing parents.
- We maintain "professional curiosity" – always asking questions if something doesn't seem right.
- We recognise that abuse can be physical, emotional, sexual, neglect, or take the form of children harming other children (peer-on-peer abuse).
- Concerns about staff behaviour are taken seriously and managed under our Low-Level Concerns and Allegations procedures.

If You Have a Concern

If you are worried about a child's welfare:

1. Speak to our DSL or Deputy DSL immediately.
2. If they are unavailable and you believe a child is at immediate risk, contact Children's Social Care or the police directly.
3. Always make a written record of your concern within 24 hours.

Related Policies available upon request:

Child Protection Procedures

Child on Child Abuse Policy

Lower Level Concerns Policy

Policy Review

We review our safeguarding and child protection policy every year and in line with Hampshire County Council guidance.