

Little Greenwich Books

Safeguarding children policy statement

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Little Greenwich Books is a charity dedicated to advancing the education and literacy skills of young children in Greenwich and Bexley. We do this by distributing free books and other learning materials to local partner organisations working with babies and children in the early years. As such, Little Greenwich Books does not currently work directly with children or their families. However, we are fully aware of the importance of safeguarding children, whether working directly or indirectly with them. We recognise our duty of care to safeguard those we work with and those that work on our behalf including staff, volunteers, trustees and partner agencies.
- 1.2 The purpose and scope of this policy in respect of the charity's work is to ensure that the welfare and wellbeing of children are safeguarded through education.
- 1.3 In the Department for Education (DfE) document 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018', safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:
- protecting children from maltreatment
 - preventing impairment of children's health or development
 - ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
 - taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

2. Why learning to read is important

- 2.1 Research shows that children without good literacy skills tend to struggle at school and are more likely to be impacted by unemployment, health and even relationship problems later in life.
- 2.2 There is also evidence to suggest that the benefits of being read to frequently as a child go way beyond language development and literacy skills. As well as the bonding benefits, books can be a great way of helping children to cope with real life situations and experiences. They can also help to develop a child's character as well as influence their behaviour towards others. Choosing the right books, therefore, is very important.

3. Key definitions relevant to safeguarding children

- 3.1 According to The Children Act 1989:
- **A child** – is defined as a person who is aged under 18 and includes an unborn child.
 - **A child at risk** – is a child who:

- Is experiencing or is at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm.
 - Has needs for care and support; that is, they have a disability.
- 3.2 It is important to note that the use of the term 'at risk' means that actual abuse or neglect does not need to occur, rather that early interventions to protect a child at risk should be considered to prevent actual harm, abuse and neglect.
- 3.3 **Harm** – is defined as ill treatment; this includes sexual abuse, neglect, emotional abuse and psychological abuse. It can include enticing or encouraging them to behave in an abuse way towards others.
- 3.4 Name calling, bullying, racial slurs, and other derogatory remarks about others can be harmful both to victims as well as offenders.
- 3.5 **Safeguarding** – is defined as promoting the general welfare and wellbeing of all children. Ensuring good education for our children is an important part of safeguarding. This includes the actions we take to **prevent** harm.

4. Policy statement

4.1 We believe that:

- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse
- Children and young people should treat each other with respect and be free from humiliation, verbal or racial abuse

4.2 We will seek to keep children and young people safe by ensuring that the books we distribute:

- are age appropriate
- promote learning in a fun way
- promote the values of our multicultural society
- do not portray racial, gender, sex or disability discrimination
- generally promote positive respectful relationships
- aid the development of empathy
- are varied and avoid stereotypes
- are selected based on research, professional recommendations and feedback from the organisations we work with

- 4.3 All of our trustees have been DBS checked. Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is trustee Katalin Sutton, a qualified childminder. Katalin will advise the board on all matters relating to safeguarding.
- 4.4 We will keep up to date with child protections issues and relevant legislation by taking regular training courses.
- 4.5 Any safeguarding concerns in relation to our work, can in the first instance be submitted to info@littlegreenwichbooks.org.uk. We will follow our **Compliments, comments and complaints policy** and, if necessary, contact local safeguarding partners for advice and an assessment of the situation.