



Prevent Duty Policy

Woodlands recognises that safeguarding extends beyond identifying the four categories of abuse. Children may be vulnerable to a range of additional risks due to their age, circumstances, family experiences, community influences or online exposure.

Staff must remain professionally curious and understand that safeguarding concerns can present in many different ways.

All concerns must be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

Domestic Abuse

Woodlands recognises that children are victims of domestic abuse if they see, hear or experience the effects of abuse between adults.

Domestic abuse may include:

- Physical abuse.
- Emotional abuse.
- Threatening behaviour.
- Coercive control.
- Controlling behaviour.
- Financial abuse.
- Psychological abuse.

Children exposed to domestic abuse may experience:

- Fear and anxiety.
- Changes in behaviour.
- Difficulty regulating emotions.
- Sleep difficulties.
- Delayed development.
- Increased aggression or withdrawal.
- Difficulty forming relationships.

Staff must report concerns where they notice:

- Changes in a child's behaviour.
- Signs that a child may be frightened or distressed.
- Information shared by a child or parent.
- Concerns about relationships or safety at home.

Woodlands will work with families and relevant agencies to provide support while keeping the child's welfare paramount.

Prevent Duty and Radicalisation

Woodlands has a duty to protect children from the risk of being drawn into terrorism or extremist views.

Although children aged 1–5 are unlikely to understand extremist ideology, staff must be aware that safeguarding concerns may arise through:

- Family influences.
- Exposure to extremist material.
- Concerns about adults around the child.

Possible indicators may include:

- Exposure to extremist views.
- Adults expressing concerning beliefs.
- Attempts to influence children with harmful messages.

Staff must report concerns to the DSL.

The DSL will seek advice and make referrals where appropriate.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

FGM is illegal and is a form of child abuse.

It involves procedures that intentionally alter or injure female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

FGM may be linked to:

- Cultural beliefs.
- Family pressure.
- Community expectations.

Possible indicators include:

- A child talking about a planned special procedure.
- Family discussions about travelling abroad.
- Concerns raised by other professionals.

Any concerns must be reported immediately to the DSL.

Where a staff member receives a direct disclosure that FGM has occurred, the matter must be escalated in line with statutory requirements.

Forced Marriage and Honour-Based Abuse

Woodlands recognises that some children may be affected by harmful practices linked to family or community expectations.

Concerns may include:

- Pressure placed on families or children.
- Threats relating to family reputation.
- Controlling behaviour.
- Fear of certain relatives.

Any concern must be reported to the DSL.

Staff must not attempt to mediate or investigate.

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

Child Criminal Exploitation occurs when children are manipulated or pressured into criminal activity.

Although young children are less likely to be directly exploited, concerns may arise through family circumstances or older siblings.

Possible indicators include:

- Adults around the child involved in criminal activity.
- Unsafe adults having access to the child.
- Concerns about the child's environment.

Staff must remain alert to wider risks affecting children.

County Lines

County Lines refers to organised criminal exploitation where children or vulnerable people are used to transport drugs, money or messages.

For young children, risks may include:

- Exposure to unsafe adults.
- Living in environments affected by criminal activity.
- Family members involved in exploitation.

Concerns must be reported to the DSL.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

CSE involves children being manipulated or exploited into sexual activity.

While this is less common in early years, Woodlands recognises that:

- Older siblings or family members may be affected.
- Children may be exposed to unsafe adults.
- Harmful environments may impact younger children.

Any concerns must be shared with the DSL.

Child-on-Child Abuse

Woodlands recognises that children can cause harm to other children.

This may include:

- Physical aggression.
- Bullying.
- Sexualised behaviour.
- Harmful sexual behaviour.
- Intimidation.
- Online harm.

Staff must:

- Take all concerns seriously.
- Ensure children's safety.
- Avoid labelling children as "bad".
- Consider underlying needs and experiences.
- Report concerns to the DSL.

Children displaying concerning behaviour will receive appropriate support while ensuring other children remain safe.

Harmful Sexual Behaviour

Young children may display sexual behaviours as part of normal development; however, staff must recognise when behaviour may be concerning.

Concerns may include behaviour that is:

- Persistent.
- Coercive.
- Distressing to another child.
- Not appropriate for the child's developmental stage.
- Involving force or secrecy.

The DSL will consider the child's age, development, context and individual circumstances.

Online Safety

Woodlands recognises that children are increasingly exposed to technology from an early age.

Online risks may include:

- Inappropriate content.
- Online abuse.
- Unsafe adults.
- Excessive screen use.
- Sharing of images.

Woodlands will:

- Promote safe and age-appropriate technology use.
- Teach children about safe choices.
- Support parents with online safety information.
- Ensure staff use technology responsibly.

Staff must follow Woodlands' digital safety procedures.

Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

Woodlands recognises the importance of children's emotional wellbeing.

Staff will support children by:

- Building secure relationships.
- Providing predictable routines.
- Supporting emotional regulation.
- Encouraging children to express feelings.

Concerns may arise where:

- A child's behaviour changes significantly.
- A child appears persistently distressed.
- Family circumstances impact emotional wellbeing.

Staff must share concerns with the DSL.

Parental Mental Health

Woodlands recognises that parental mental health difficulties do not automatically mean a child is unsafe. However, staff must consider whether a parent's circumstances affect their ability to meet their child's needs.

Concerns may include:

- A child experiencing inadequate care.
- Unsafe supervision.
- Significant changes in family functioning.

Support should be offered where appropriate through early intervention.

Substance Misuse

Woodlands recognises that substance misuse can affect children's safety and wellbeing.

Concerns may include:

- A parent appearing unable to safely care for their child.
- Unsafe adults around the child.
- Exposure to substances or unsafe environments.

Staff must report concerns to the DSL.

Missing Children

A child missing from Woodlands is treated as a safeguarding incident.

If a child cannot be located:

Staff must:

1. Immediately inform the Manager and DSL.
2. Secure the safety of other children.
3. Search the setting and immediate area.
4. Check attendance records and collection information.
5. Contact emergency services where appropriate.
6. Inform parents/carers.
7. Record the incident and actions taken.

Woodlands maintains procedures to prevent children leaving unnoticed.

Private Fostering

Private fostering occurs when a child under 16 is cared for by someone who is not a close relative for 28 days or more.

Staff must report any information suggesting a private fostering arrangement to the DSL.

The DSL will advise and refer where necessary.

Modern Slavery and Trafficking

Woodlands recognises that children may be vulnerable to exploitation through trafficking or modern slavery.

Possible indicators include:

- Adults controlling access to the child.
- Fearful behaviour.
- Lack of appropriate care.
- Unusual family circumstances.

Concerns must be reported immediately.

Safeguarding Children Through Partnership Working

Woodlands recognises that effective safeguarding requires partnership working with:

- Parents and carers.
- Suffolk County Council.
- Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership.
- Health professionals.
- Social care.
- Police.
- Other agencies supporting children and families.

Information will be shared appropriately to protect children.