Oughtrington Pre-School, Oughtrington Community Centre,Oughtrington Crescent, Lymm, Cheshire, WA13 9JD (Telephone 07808 111 278/ 757155 )

Registered Charity Number 1038655

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***'Supporting Children to Flourish, Respecting and Nurturing their Individuality and Developing Strengths in Preparations for their Unique Learning Journey.'***

# Child Abuse/ Neglect

Main Types of Abuse and Key Indicators

Physical Abuse

• Unexplained injuries, pattern marks, bruises on soft areas (ears/torso/neck).

• Inconsistent explanations; delay seeking help; child flinches/shies from contact.

• Behavioural changes: aggression, withdrawal, fearfulness.

Emotional Abuse

• Low self-esteem; over‑compliance or extreme behaviours; developmental regression.

• Exposure to persistent criticism, rejection or domestic abuse.

• Sleep problems, nightmares; anxiety that’s not typical for age.

Sexual Abuse

• Sexualised behaviour/language not age appropriate.

• Soreness/bleeding; STIs; fear of bathrooms or particular people.

• Sudden behaviour change; disclosure (direct or indirect).

Neglect

• Consistently poor hygiene; ill‑fitting/inappropriate clothing; faltering growth.

• Untreated medical issues; frequent hunger/hoarding food.

• Lack of supervision; unsafe home reports; persistent late collection.

Specific Risks (watch-fors)

• Child-on-child abuse (including harmful sexual behaviour).

• Domestic abuse (impact on children).

• Child sexual/criminal exploitation (CSE/CCE), including county lines.

• Online abuse and grooming; indecent images; unsafe contact.

• Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) – mandatory police report for known cases in under‑18s by regulated professionals.

• Breast ironing/flattening.

• Fabricated or Induced Illness (FII).

• Private fostering (child living with non‑relative for 28+ days) – notify the LA.

• Children Missing Education (CME).

• Radicalisation – Prevent duty; British Values.

• ACEs / ‘Toxic trio’ context (domestic abuse, parental substance misuse, parental mental ill‑health).

What To Do – Every Time

1) Listen and reassure. Don’t promise confidentiality. Avoid leading questions.2) Record promptly and factually (child’s words in quotes, date/time, body map if needed).3) Inform the DSL (Mollie Linley) the same day. If at immediate risk, call 999.4) If it concerns staff/volunteer conduct towards a child: tell the DSL and consult LADO without delay.5) For advice/referral: contact MASH. Use Early Help/MARS for emerging needs; escalate if risk increases.

Key Contacts (Warrington)

• DSL: Mollie Linley • Deputy DSL: Jemma Walsh• Warrington MASH (office hours): 01925 443322 (press 1 and say ‘MASH’)• Out of Hours/Emergency Duty Team: 01925 444400• LADO (allegations about staff/volunteers): 01925 442079 • LADO@warrington.gov.uk• Police: 999 emergency / 101 non‑emergency• NSPCC Whistleblowing Advice Line (re organisational child protection): 0800 028 0285

Information Sharing & Legal Frameworks

It’s lawful to share information to safeguard children. Follow our Confidentiality and Data Protection policies. Key references: Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023), EYFS Statutory Framework (2025), Prevent Duty Guidance, Information Sharing Advice (DfE 2024), Children Acts 1989/2004, Childcare Act 2006, Equality Act 2010, UK GDPR/Data Protection Act 2018.

Note & Review

This quick reference supports (and does not replace) the full Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy, which contains detailed procedures and expanded indicators. Updated September 2025 • Review annually or sooner if guidance changes.