



Charters Ancaster Nursery and Forest School



EMERGENCY POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Reviewed By: Nursery Manager

Date approved by Directors: February 2019 Signature: _____ Date for

Review: February 2020

INTRODUCTION

This policy informs practice in the Nursery.

At Charters Ancaster Nursery and Forest School we understand the need to plan for all eventualities to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all the children we care for and the staff we employ. With this in mind we have an Emergency policy in place to ensure our Nursery is able to operate effectively in the case of an emergency. The emergency might arise from the following:

- Flood
- Fire
- Burglary
- Abduction or threatened abduction of a child
- Bomb threat /terrorism attack
- Any other incident that may effect the care of the children in the nursery.

If any of these incidents impact on the ability of the nursery to operate, we will contact parents via phone at the earliest opportunity eg before the start of the Nursery day.

Flood

There is always a danger of flooding from adverse weather conditions or through water/central heating systems. We cannot anticipate adverse weather conditions; however we can ensure that we take care of all our water and heating systems through regular maintenance and checks to reduce the risk of flooding in this way. Our central heating systems are checked and serviced annually by a registered gas engineer and they conform to all appropriate guidelines and legislation.

If flooding occurs during the nursery day, the nursery manager will make a decision based on the severity of this flooding, and it may be deemed necessary to follow the fire evacuation procedure. In this instance children will be kept safe and parents will be notified in the same way as the fire procedure.

Should the nursery be assessed as unsafe through flooding, fire or any other incident we will ask parents to collect their children when it is deemed suitable

Fire

Please refer to the Fire Safety and Fire Evacuation policies.

Burglary

The management of the Nursery and the Site Manager follow a lock up procedure which

ensures all doors and windows are closed and locked before vacating the premises.

The managers and Site manager will always check the premises as they arrive in the morning. Should they discover that any of the nursery buildings has been broken into they will follow the procedure below:

- Dial 999 with as many details a possible. ie name and location, details of what has been found and emphasise that the site is a nursery and that children will arrive soon.
- Contain the area to ensure that no-one enters until the police arrive. The staff will direct parents and children to a separate area as they arrive. If all areas have been disturbed staff will follow police advice.
- The manager on duty will help the police with enquiries eg by identifying items missing, areas of entry etc
- A manager will be available at all times during this time to speak to parents, reassure children and direct enquiries.
- Management will assess the situation following a theft and ensure parents are kept up to date with developments relating to the operation of the nursery.

Abduction or Threatened Abduction of a Child

We have secure safety procedures in place to ensure children are safe while in our care, including safety from abduction. Staff must be vigilant at all times and report any persons lingering on Nursery property immediately. All doors to the Nursery are locked when not in use and cannot be accessed unless staff members allow individuals in. Staff monitor entrances and exits in their classrooms particularly during free-flow activities.

Parents are reminded on a regular basis not to allow anyone into the buildings whether they are known to them or not. Visitors and general security are covered in more detail in the Supervision of Visitors policy.

Children will only be released into the care of a designated adult; see the **Arrivals and Departures Policy for more details.**

Custody Battles Between Parents

Parents are requested to inform the nursery of any potential custody battles or family concerns as soon as they arise so the Nursery is able to support the child.

The Nursery will not take sides in relation to any custody battle and will remain neutral for the child. If an absent parent arrives to collect their child, the Nursery will not restrict access **unless** a court order is in place. Parents are requested to issue the Nursery with a copy of these documents should they be in place. We will consult our solicitors with regards to any concerns over custody and relay any information back to the parties involved.

If a member of staff witnesses an actual abduction or potential abduction from the Nursery

we have the following procedures which are followed immediately;

- The police must be called immediately.
- The staff member will notify the Nursery managers, Business manager and Site manager immediately.
- The Nursery manager/Business manager will take control.
- The parent(s) will be contacted.
- All other children will be kept safe and secure and calmed down where necessary.
- The police will be given as many details as possible including details of the child, description of the abductor, car registration number if used, time and direction of travel if seen and any family situations that may impact on this abduction.

Bomb Threat or Terrorist Attack

If a bomb threat is received at the Nursery, the person taking the call will record all details given over the phone as soon as possible and raise the alarm as soon as the phone call is ended. The management will follow the fire evacuation procedure to ensure the safety of all on the premises and will provide as much detail to the emergency services as possible.

In the event of a terrorist attack the management will instigate the Lock down procedure or Fire evacuation procedure as relevant to the situation. See '**Critical Incident**' policy for further information.

Other Incidents

All incidents will be managed by the manager on duty and all staff will co-operate with any emergency services on the scene. Any other incident that requires evacuation will follow the Fire Evacuation Procedure. Other incidents eg no water supply will be dealt with on an individual basis taking into account the effect on the health, safety and welfare of the children and staff in the Nursery.

The Nursery manager will notify Ofsted in the event of a 'critical incident.'

Thanks to Kathy Wallis from Little Faces Nursery.

