

Corfe Valley Outdoor Learning Ltd
Child Protection Policy & Procedures
2025-2026

Corfe Valley Outdoor Learning Ltd is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



Owner: Tom Smith/Kirstie Smith

Reviewed Date	Changes made/details of action plan	Review Date	By Whom
August 2025	Changes in line with KCSiE & Pan Dorset	September 2026	Tom & Kirstie Smith

Named Designated Safeguarding Lead(s)

Designated Safeguarding Lead	Kirstie Smith 07429846814 kirstie@corfevalley.co.uk
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Tom Smith 07729776203 tom@corfevalley.co.uk
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Jen Holloway 07729776203 jen@corfevalley.co.uk

Personnel with designated responsibility in relation to allegations against staff

Designated Senior Manager (Proprietor)	Kirstie Smith 07429846814 kirstie@corfevalley.co.uk
Deputy Designated Senior Manager (Proprietor)	Tom Smith 07729776203 tom@corfevalley.co.uk
Deputy Designated Senior (Manager)	Jen Holloway 07729776203 jen@corfevalley.co.uk

Key External Contacts

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) Martha Sharp (full time) Lynne Bowman (full time) Laura Tulk (part time)	BCP – 01202 817 600 LADO@bcpcouncil.gov.uk Dorset – 01305 221 122 LADO@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
Children' Family Support & Advice Line	01305 228558
Children's Social Care Out of Hours Service	01305 228558
BCP Children's First Response Hub	01202 735046
Safeguarding in Education Service Laura Tulk (part time) Annabel Mitchel (full time)	01305 221122 safeguardingandstandardsadvisors@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Policy Statement

In line with KCSiE 2025 and all new updates Corfe Valley recognises that “Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone’s responsibility. Everyone who meets children, and their families has a role to play. To fulfil this responsibility effectively, all practitioners should make sure their approach is child centred. This means that they should consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the child.’ KCSiE.

Corfe Valley will make every effort to provide a safe and welcoming environment underpinned by a culture of openness and inclusiveness where both adults and children feel secure, able to talk and believe that they are being listened to. All staff maintain an attitude of ‘it could happen here’ where safeguarding is concerned.

The purpose of this policy is to provide all staff at Corfe Valley with the framework they need to keep children safe and secure at our provision and to help inform parent and carers on how we will safeguard their children whilst in our care.

Terminology

Child protection is an aspect of safeguarding but is focussed on how we respond to children who have been significantly harmed or are at risk of significant harm.

Staff applies to all those working at Corfe Valley.

Child refers to all our young people who have not yet reached their 18th birthday.

Parent refers to birth parents and other adults in a parenting role for example adoptive parents, stepparents, guardians, and foster carers.

Abuse could mean neglect, physical, emotional, or sexual abuse or any combination of these, as well as children witnessing domestic abuse. Parents, carers, and other people can harm children either by direct acts and/or failure to provide proper care. Explanations of such are included in our policy.

Aims

The aims of this policy are to:

- Provide staff with the framework to promote and safeguard the wellbeing of children and in so doing ensure they meet their statutory responsibilities.
- To ensure consistent good practice across our provision.
- To demonstrate our commitment to protecting children.

Principles & Values

- All children have a right to feel secure and safe.
- All children have a right to be protected from harm.
- All staff have a key role to play in prevention of harm.
- We know how essential it is to work in partnership with all agencies that help to protect children.

- Whilst Corfe Valley will work openly with parents as far as possible, we do reserve the right to contact Children's Social Care or the police, without notifying parents if this is believed to be in the child's best interests.

Leadership & Management

Corfe Valley has clear procedures in place for helping to protect our young people and all staff adhere to these. At Corfe Valley any individual can contact the DSL or the DDSL if they have concerns about a young person.

As an employer we follow safer recruitment guidance as set out in KCSIE 2024 including informing candidates that online searched will be carried out.

Training

All staff at Corfe Valley are expected to be aware of the signs of abuse and must be able to respond appropriately. Training is provided and completed at least annually plus additional training to all new staff via induction. Any updates to national or local guidance will be shared with staff and discussed in person during INSETS.

Referral

Following any concerns raised, the DSL will assess the information and consider if significant harm has happened or there is a risk that it may happen. If the evidence suggests the threshold of significant harm, or risk of significant harm has been reached, or if it is not clear if the threshold is met, the DSL will contact Children's Social Care and, if appropriate, the police. If the DSL or DDSL is not available or there are immediate concerns, the staff member will refer directly to Children's Social Care and the police if appropriate.

The DSL will normally inform parents prior to making a referral. However, there are situations where this may not be possible or appropriate, particularly when informing parents, may put the child at further risk.

The exception to this process will be in those cases of known FGM where there is a mandatory requirement for the teacher to report directly to the police. The DSL also should be made aware.

Confidentiality

Corfe Valley will treat all matters relating to child protection as confidential and only shared as per the 'Information Sharing Advice for Practitioners' DfE 2024 guidance. We understand that there is a lawful basis for child protection concerns to be shared with agencies who have a statutory duty for child protection. We will only share information with individuals within our setting on a 'need to know' basis and understand that we cannot promise a child to keep a disclosure confidential.

Education

Corfe Valley has instilled a culture of openness and safety where our young people will be safe to talk freely about any concerns, they may have knowing that they will be listened to and valued. We have high adult ratios so we can ensure that each young person under our care has a trusted adult they can talk with at any point throughout the day.

Corfe Valley's Child Protection Procedures

Overview

The following procedures apply to all staff working at Corfe Valley and will be covered by training to enable staff to understand their role and responsibility. The aim of our procedures is to provide a clear framework which enables staff to take appropriate action when they are concerned that a child is being harmed or is at risk of harm.

Our prime concern at all stages is for the interests and safety of the child. Where there is a conflict of interest between the child and adult, the interests of the child must come first.

We are aware that at Corfe Valley we will have some young people who will find communicating their concerns trickier than others and this may come out through their behaviour.

If a member of staff suspects abuse, spots signs or indicators of abuse, or they have a disclosure of abuse made to them then they must:

- Log using MyConcerns which all staff have access to
- Report to the DSL immediately
- The DSL will consider if immediate medical intervention is needed. Urgent medical attention should not be delayed if the DSL is not immediately available.
- An accurate record must be kept that includes dates, times, injuries, explanation given by the young person, action taken, and any actual words used by the child.
- If the DSL or DDSL is not available staff must refer directly to Children's Social Care and the police if appropriate if there is the potential for immediate or significant harm.

Following a report of concerns the DSL must:

- Decide whether or not there are sufficient grounds for suspecting significant harm, in which case a referral must be made to Children's Social Care and the police if appropriate.
- Normally concerns will be discussed with the young person's family before making a referral to Children's Social Care, however where there are doubts about involving the family the DSL will talk to Children's Social Care and the Police. The child's views should also be taken into account when appropriate.
- If there are grounds to suspect a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm the DSL or DDSL must contact Children's Social Care direct on the phone for Dorset and via the inter-agency referral form for BCP making a clear statement of the facts, any allegations and whether you have contacted the child's family.
- If a young person is in immediate danger and urgent protective action is required, the police must be called. The DSL must then notify Children's Social Care.
- If there is no risk of significant harm, the DSL will either actively monitor the situation or consider the Early Help process.
- In cases of allegations against staff Corfe Valley will use our Low-Level Concerns procedure.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT A CHILD BEING ABUSED

Staff member has concerns about a child's welfare

Be alert to signs of abuse and question any unusual behaviours

When a child or young person discloses abuse or neglect

Listen and take the allegation seriously, reassure them and keep them safe.

- Listen carefully
- Avoid showing shock
- Observe child's demeanour
- Explain carefully that the information shared does need to be shared you cannot keep this a secret.
 - Allow the child or young person to explain at their own pace and do not interrupt
 - Avoid asking leading questions – only ask for clarification
 - Reassure the child that they have done the right thing talking about it
- Explain what will happen next and who you will share information with
 - Do not ask the child to repeat a disclosure to anyone else
 - Do not raise the allegation with possible abuser (parent/staff/other)

After disclosure – login and complete 'My Concern' once the form is completed, it will automatically alert the DSL

Discuss concerns with DSL or DDSL in the absence of the DSL.

The DSL will consider further actions required, including consultation with Children' Family Support & Advice Line and/or current social worker if applicable. Concerns and discussions, decisions and reasons for decisions should be recorded on My Concern.

Still have concerns – refer to Children' Family Support & Advice Line

No longer has safeguarding concerns.

Children' Family Support & Advice Line /Social Worker

1. *Acknowledg receipt of referral*
2. *Decide on next course of action (within 1 working day)*
3. *Feedback decision to referrer (e.g. further assessment including Strategy discussions/child protection enquires, no further action required)*

DSL/DDSL – follow up in 72 hours if not had feedback

Children' Family Support & Advice Line

01305 228558

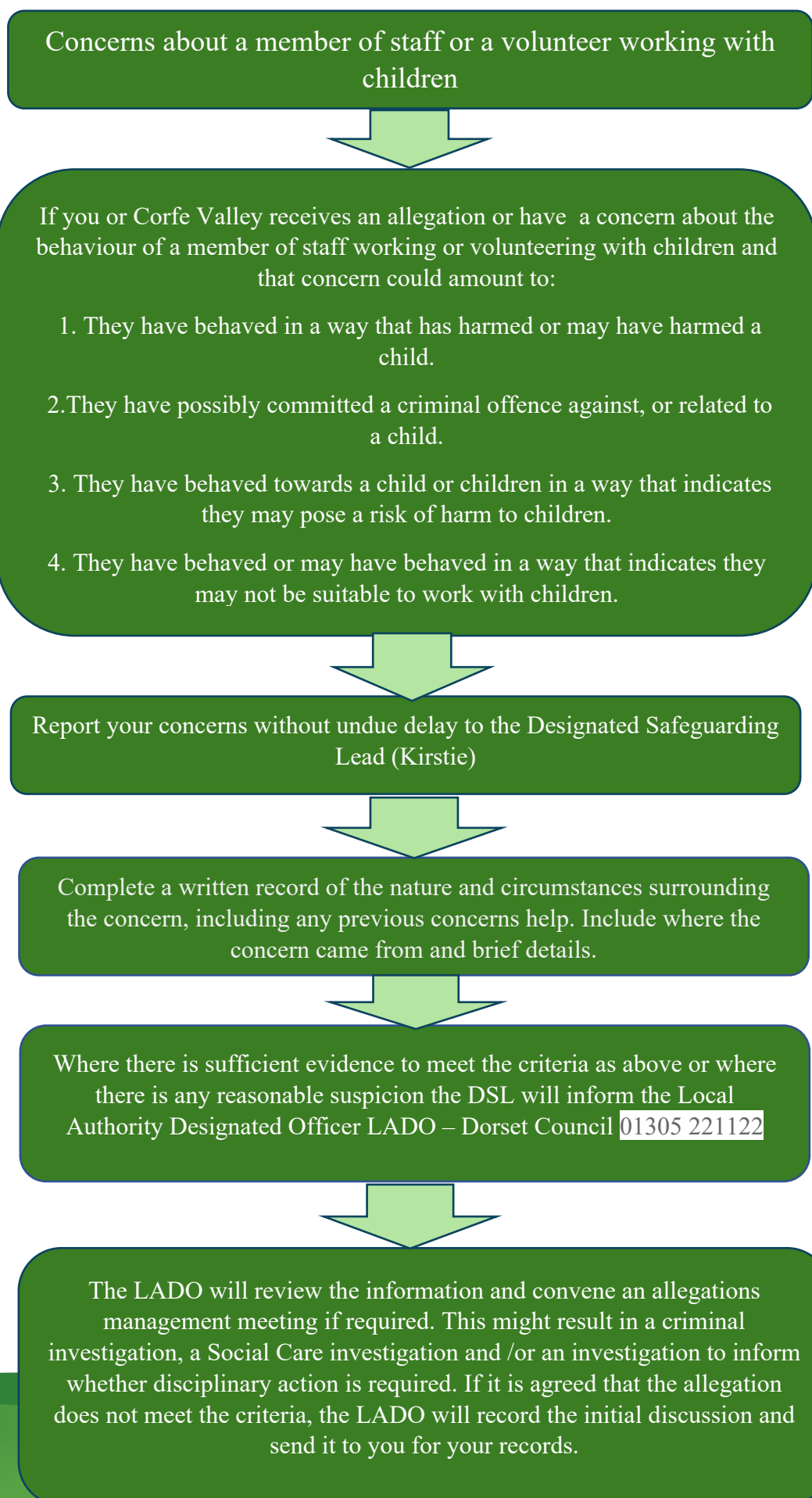
BCP – Children's First Response Hub:

01202 735046

Additional Needs

Consult with relevant agencies and undertake an Early Help CAF and Team around the Child meetings as appropriate

Corfe Valley Managing Allegations Procedure Flow Chart



Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges

Context

This policy is about how staff should respond to all reports and concerns of child-on-child sexual violence and sexual harassment, including those that have happened outside of Corfe Valley and school, and or online. All staff are advised to maintain an attitude of ‘it could happen here’.

All staff are aware that by not recognising, acknowledging or understanding the scale of harassment and abuse or downplaying some behaviours relating to abuse can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviour and an unsafe environment as well as a culture that normalises abuse.

Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any age and sex. It can also occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children.

Children and young people who are victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment will likely find the experience stressful and distressing. This can affect their emotional wellbeing and attendance. Sexual violence and sexual harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap; they can occur online and offline (both physically and verbally) and are never acceptable. It is important that all victims are taken seriously and offered appropriate support. It is also important to recognise that some perpetrators may themselves also be victims.

Reports of sexual violence and sexual harassment are extremely complex to manage and all staff involved should also be offered support.

Policy

We believe that all children have a right to attend education and to learn in a safe environment. Children should be free from harm by adults in the provision and by other children.

We recognise that it could happen here and any abuse will be dealt with under our child protection policy and in line with KCSiE (2025).

This policy is underpinned by the principle that we have a zero-tolerance to sexual violence and sexual harassment. We are clear that this is not acceptable and will never be tolerated.

Corfe Valley will minimise the risk of child-on-child abuse by:

- Providing staff training
- Clear values
- Having a whole provision approach to safeguarding and child protection

Responding to reports of sexual violence and sexual harassment:

- This will be taken seriously and the child will be supported
- We understand that our initial response to a report from a child is incredibly important
- If the report contains an element of online then staff will be mindful of the Searching, Screening and Confiscation: advice for schools (DfE, 2022) guidance.
- DSL will be informed as soon as possible but at least within 24 hours
- Parents and carers will normally be informed unless this puts the child at risk
- If a child is at immediate risk of harm or danger then a referral will be made to children's social care

Action:

- The DSL will contact the child's safeguarding lead where they are on role at school and together they will make a risk assessment for the child which will be kept under review
- The report will be managed with the appropriate action; early help, children social care or referred to the police.
- All concerns will be logged on MyConcern and reviewed and updated so that any potential patterns can be identified
- The child's risk assessment will be kept under review

Physical Abuse

While a clear focus of child-on-child abuse is linked to sexual abuse and harassment, physical assaults and initiation violence and rituals from pupils to pupils can also be abusive.

This is equally not tolerated at Corfe Valley, if it is believed that a crime has been committed, will be reported to the police.

References: KCSiE (2025)

Extra – Familial Harm

Children may be at risk of or experiencing physical, sexual, or emotional abuse and exploitation in contexts outside their families.

Extra-familial contexts include a range of environments outside the family home in which harm can occur. These can include peer groups, school, and community/public spaces, including known places in the community (for example parks, housing estates and shopping centres), as well as online, including social media or gaming platforms.

Technology Assisted Abuse

Technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues. Children and young people are at risk of abuse and other risks online as well as face to face. In many cases abuse and other risks will take place concurrently both online and offline. o