

## **Lollipoppets Safeguarding Policy – September 2025**

### **Statement of Intent**

Lollipoppets is committed to creating a safe, caring, and inclusive environment for all children and families. As a toddler group where parents and carers remain with their children at all times, we recognise that safeguarding is a shared responsibility. The welfare of every child is our highest priority. Any concern about a child's safety or wellbeing will be reported directly to the Children's Services Department at the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

### **Principles**

Lollipoppets will:

- Promote the welfare of all children and protect them from harm.
- Encourage an open and supportive atmosphere where parents and carers can raise any concerns.
- Take all concerns seriously and report them promptly to the Children's Services Department.
- Work cooperatively with the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and other relevant agencies to protect children.
- Follow the principles set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023) and the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2025).

### **What Safeguarding Means**

Safeguarding children means:

- Protecting them from maltreatment or harm.
- Preventing impairment of health or development.
- Ensuring that children grow up in safe and secure circumstances.
- Taking timely action to enable every child to achieve the best possible outcomes.

### **Recognising Abuse and Neglect**

Abuse and neglect can take many forms, including:

- Physical abuse – causing physical harm to a child.
- Emotional abuse – persistent emotional maltreatment that impacts a child's wellbeing.
- Sexual abuse – forcing or encouraging a child to take part in sexual activities.

- Neglect – persistent failure to meet a child’s basic physical and emotional needs.
- Domestic abuse – exposure to, or experience of, psychological, physical, sexual, financial, or emotional abuse within the home.

Possible signs of abuse may include:

- Unexplained bruises or injuries.
- Significant changes in behaviour or mood.
- Unusual fearfulness or withdrawal.
- Comments or play that suggest inappropriate experiences.

### **Responding to Concerns**

If any parent, carer, or member of Lollipopets has a concern about a child’s safety or wellbeing:

1. Record the concern – include the date, time, child’s name, and a factual description of what was seen, heard, or reported.
2. Report it immediately to the Children’s Services Department at the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.
3. If the child is believed to be in immediate danger, contact the Police by calling 999.

Lollipopets will support any parent or carer who raises a concern and will ensure information is passed promptly to the appropriate authorities.

### **Contact Details**

Children’s Services Department – Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

- Telephone (office hours): 020 7361 3013
- Out of hours (Emergency Duty Team): 020 7361 3013 (select option for emergency duty)
- Email: [socialservices@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:socialservices@rbkc.gov.uk)
- Website: [www.rbkc.gov.uk](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk)

If there is immediate risk of harm, call 999 for emergency services.

### **Child-on-Child Behaviour**

While serious safeguarding concerns are rare in a toddler group, we recognise that young children may sometimes behave in ways that distress others.

Parents and carers will be supported to respond calmly and appropriately.

If behaviour raises safeguarding concerns, these will be reported to the Children's Services Department.

### **Online Safety and Photography**

Parents and carers are responsible for supervising their own children at all times, including during any use of mobile phones or other devices.

Photographs or videos should only be taken of their own children unless clear consent is obtained from others present.

### **Preventing Radicalisation**

Although the risk of radicalisation is extremely low in a toddler setting, Lollipoppets promotes respect, inclusion, and diversity at all times.

Any concerns about extremist views or influences will be reported to the Children's Services Department at the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

### **Confidentiality**

Any information shared about a child's welfare will be treated sensitively and confidentially, and only shared with professionals who need the information in order to protect the child.

### **Contextual Safeguarding**

Lollipoppets recognises that children's safety can be influenced by factors outside their immediate family. As a central London provider, offering a source of interaction and, by extension, family support, we are keenly aware that children and families using our services might present signs of abuse or neglect and we recognise our duties in supporting the children who attend our sessions.

Contextual safeguarding considers risks in the wider community, including:

- Harm that may occur in public spaces, online, or in other social environments.
- Inappropriate behaviour or unsafe interactions by adults or older children in community settings.
- Environmental risks, such as unsafe play areas or community tensions that may affect children's wellbeing.

Lollipoppets will remain alert to any external risks affecting the families who attend and we will share relevant concerns with the Children's Services Department, MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) and the Police where appropriate.

### **Responding to Concerns**

If any parent, carer, or member of Lollipoppets has a concern about a child's safety or wellbeing:

1. **Record the concern** – include the date, time, child's name, and a factual description of what was seen, heard, or reported.
2. **Report it immediately** to the Children's Services Department and MASH at the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.
3. **If the child is believed to be in immediate danger, contact the Police by calling 999.**

Lollipoppets will support any parent or carer who raises a concern and will ensure information is passed promptly to the appropriate authorities.

### **Concerns About an Adult**

If there is a concern about the behaviour of an adult—whether a parent, carer, volunteer, or visitor—the same principles apply:

- Record the concern factually, including what was observed or reported.
- Report the concern directly to the MASH at the Children's Services Department at the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.
- If there is a concern about a member of Lollipoppets staff, or the staff at the venue, this concern will be referred to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer)
- If there is an immediate risk to a child, contact the Police on 999.

Concerns about an adult may include:

- Inappropriate behaviour towards children.
- Unsafe or aggressive conduct or language.
- Signs of substance misuse or impairment while responsible for a child.

Lollipoppets will not investigate concerns independently but will pass them to the appropriate statutory agencies for assessment and follow-up.

### **Aggression or Violence Between Adults**

Lollipoppets is committed to providing a calm, respectful, and safe environment for all families. Aggressive, threatening, or violent behaviour towards others will not be tolerated.

- If an adult becomes aggressive or threatening towards another adult, the organiser will take steps to de-escalate the situation if it is safe to do so.

- If there is an immediate risk to anyone's safety, the Police will be contacted by calling **999**.
- Any incident will be recorded factually and reviewed to ensure the continued safety of the group.
- If children are present or affected by the behaviour, the incident will also be reported to **Children's Services** at the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

### **Managing Risk**

As a stay-and-play toddler group where parents and carers are responsible for their children, Lollipoppets manages risk through:

- **Supervision:** Parents and carers must supervise their children at all times.
- **Environment checks:** The play area and equipment are checked regularly for safety and cleanliness.
- **Clear boundaries:** Group rules are explained to all attendees to ensure a calm and respectful environment.
- **Incident recording:** Any accidents, incidents or causes for concern are documented and, if necessary, reviewed to identify improvements and, if necessary, reported to the relevant authorities.
- **Safeguarding awareness:** Organisers maintain awareness of safeguarding responsibilities and consult Children's Services for guidance when needed.
- **Activity risk assessments:** A risk assessment will be completed for each activity carried out during sessions to identify and reduce potential hazards.

The aim is to create a welcoming, low-risk environment where children can play safely and parents feel supported.

### **Review of Policy**

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if there are significant changes to legislation or local safeguarding procedures.

### **Adoption of Policy**

This policy was adopted by: Lollipoppets

Date: 13 October 2025

To be reviewed: July 2026

Signed: (Yashan Dhaliwal – Organiser / Proprietor)