



Critical Incident Policy

At Ribbons Preschool we understand we need to plan for all eventualities to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all the children we care for. With this in mind we have a critical incident policy in place to ensure our preschool is able to operate effectively in the case of a critical incident. These include:

- Flood
- Fire
- Burglary
- Abduction or threatened abduction of a child
- Bomb threat/terrorism attack
- National outbreaks of infection/health pandemics
- Any other incident that may affect the care of the children in the preschool.

If any of these incidents impact on the ability of the preschool to operate, we will contact parents via *phone/*email/*text message at the earliest opportunity, e.g. before the start of the preschool day.

Flood

There is always a danger of flooding from adverse weather conditions or through the water/central heating systems. We cannot anticipate adverse weather, however, we can ensure that we take care of all our water and heating systems through regular maintenance and checks to reduce the option 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 preschool day, the preschool manager will make a decision based on the severity and location 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 preschool be assessed as unsafe through flooding, fire or any other incident we will follow our operational plan and provide *care in another location/*parents with alternative arrangements in sister nurseries/*options for childcare facilities in the local area.

Fire

Please refer to the fire safety policy.

Burglary

The management of the preschool follow a lock up procedure which ensures all doors and windows are closed and locked before vacating the premises. Alarm systems are used and in operation during all hours the preschool is closed.

The duty manager will always check the premises as they arrive in the morning. Should they discover that the preschool has been broken into they will follow the procedure below:

- Dial 999 with as many details as possible, i.e. name and location, details of what you have found and emphasise this is a preschool and children will be arriving soon
- Contain the area to ensure 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, including following the relocation procedure under flood whenever necessary to ensure the safety of the children
- The manager on duty will help the police with enquiries, e.g. by identifying items missing, areas of entry etc.
- A duty 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 preschool.

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 preschool property immediately. All doors and gates to the preschool are locked and cannot be accessed unless staff members allow individuals in. Parents are reminded on a regular basis not to allow anyone into the building 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. Parents are requested to inform the preschool of any potential custody battles or family concerns as soon as they arise so the preschool is able to support the child. The preschool 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 preschool will not restrict access unless a court order is in place. Parents are requested to issue the preschool 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 or potential abduction from the preschool we have the following procedure which are followed immediately:

- The police must be called immediately
- The staff member will notify management immediately and the 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/terrorism attack

If a bomb threat is received at the preschool, 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 has 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.

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 plan. Other incidents e.g. no water supply will be dealt with on an individual basis taking into account the effect on the safety, health and welfare of the children and staff in the preschool.

If there is an incident outside of the preschool building and it is safer to stay inside the building will put into place the lockdown procedure. Emergency advice would be taken.

National outbreaks of infection/Health Pandemics

In the event of a national outbreak of a health pandemic we will follow the Government health advice and guidance, legal advice and advice from our insurance provider.

The setting will remain open as long as we have sufficient staff to care for the children. Depending on the nature of the pandemic we will follow all advice and implement measures to ensure that risks to vulnerable children and staff are minimised. This may include excluding infected children/staff/parents or family members from the setting for a set period of time to prevent the spread of infection. This decision will be done in consultation with parents, staff, legal advice and our insurance provider. Each case will be reviewed on an individual basis.

The preschool manager will notify CIW in the event of a critical incident.

After the event a post-incident evaluation will be conducted to ensure that each child and staff member was supported fully and the procedure went as planned.

COVID-19

ThePreschool will follow the critical incident policy for national outbreaks of infection/health pandemics.

In addition, it will continue to follow the [Infection Prevention and Control guidance for Childcare Settings](#) with a focus on Covid -19 and keep staff and parents up to date with any changes. This includes following any procedures if the virus spread across the setting and/or the infection rates were to increase again, **as well as any local restrictions**.

This policy was adopted on: 23.08.19

This policy was amended on: 09.01.2020

Signed on behalf of the preschool: K.Watkins-Freeman

Date for review: 09.01.2021

Policy reviewed:09.01.2021

Date for review: 09.01.2022

