



RAINBOW PRE-SCHOOL

Established 1979

Registered Charity No: 1026005

BAPTIST CHURCH HALL

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Telephone 020 8883 4010

Critical Incident Policy

Policy Statement

At Rainbow 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
- Drone use over property
- Abduction or threatened abduction of a child
- Bomb threat or terrorism attack
- National outbreaks of infection or health pandemic
- 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 or 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 and central heating systems. We cannot anticipate adverse weather; however, we do ensure that the landlord carries out checks and regular maintenance on the water and heating systems to reduce the occurrence of flooding in this way. We request a copy of the paperwork for our health and safety folder. The central heating systems in the building 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. It may be deemed necessary to follow the same procedure as 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 (see Fire safety and emergency evacuation policy).

Should the preschool be assessed as unsafe through flooding, fire or any other incident we will remain closed until it is safe to re-open.

Fire

Please refer to the Fire safety and emergency evacuation policy.

Burglary

Management of all the groups using the building follow a closing 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 building is not in use. The preschool manager/ deputy will always check the premises as they arrive in the morning.

Should they discover that the building has been broken into they will follow the procedure below:

- In an emergency dial 999 or non-emergency dial 101, with as many details as possible, i.e., name and location, details of what has been found and emphasise this is a preschool and children will be arriving soon.
- Contact the MHBC facilities manager and notify them of the burglary.
- Contain the area to ensure no-one enters until the police arrive.
- Where it is safe to do so, 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. This may include temporary short-term closure to ensure the safety of the children.
- The manager/ deputy will help the police with enquiries e.g., 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 enquires.
- 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.
- Arrangements will be made to ensure the building is made safe and secure again.

Drone use over property

Should a drone be deployed over the preschool premises without the prior agreement of the Church/ preschool manager, action will be taken to safeguard the children:

- If the children are inside the building, they will remain inside until the drone is no longer in use
- If the children are outside, they will be brought inside the building and remain inside until the drone is no longer in use.
- If there is the possibility/ concern that children have been filmed while outside the building, this will be reported to the Police (on 101) due to a potential privacy breach. Ofsted must also be notified of this as a significant event.
- Parents/carers will be informed that a drone has been spotted flying over the outdoor area and will be advised fully of the actions taken by the preschool.
- The police will have their own procedures to follow and will act accordingly.
- If at any point following the incident, photographs taken by a drone emerge on social media that could identify the preschool or individual children, these are reported to the police.

Abduction or threatened abduction of a child

We have secure safety procedures in place to ensure children are safe while in our care, including taking reasonable steps to ensure that children do not leave the premises unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised persons entering the premises.

Staff are vigilant at all times and report any unfamiliar individuals that are seen in and around the building. Doors to the preschool rooms have a key pad entry system 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. We also have visual reminders about closing the door behind them to prevent tailgating (another person accessing entry behind them). Visitors and general security are covered in more detail in the Supervision of visitor's policy.

Children will only be released into the care of a designated adult. Parents are requested to inform the preschool of any potential custody proceedings 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 arrangements 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 preschool, we have the following procedures which are followed immediately:

- The staff member will notify management immediately and the manager will take control, dialling 999 and requesting the police, instructions from the emergency response team will be followed.
- The parent(s) will be contacted.
- All other children will be kept safe and secure, reassured and calmed 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 have impacted on this abduction.
- Any incidents must be recorded in writing as soon as practicably possible including the outcome, who was abducted, time identified, notification to police and findings.
- In the unlikely event that the child is not found, the preschool will follow the local authority and police procedure.
- Ofsted will be contacted and informed of the incident
- With incidents of this nature parents, carers, children and staff may require support and reassurance following the traumatic experience. Management will provide this or seek further support where necessary.
- In any cases with media attention, staff will not speak to any media representatives.

- Post-incident risk assessments will be conducted following any incident of this nature to enable the chance of this reoccurring being reduced.

Bomb threat/terrorism attack

If a bomb or terrorist attack threat is received at the preschool, the person taking the call will record all details given over the phone as soon as possible. The management will raise the alarm and contact emergency services as soon as the phone call has ended. The management will follow the fire evacuation procedure and guidance from the emergency services to ensure the safety of all on the premises. The person who took the call will provide as much detail to the emergency services as possible. Ofsted will be notified.

With incidents of this nature parents, carers, children and staff may require support and reassurance following the traumatic experience. Management will provide this or seek further support where necessary.

Any other significant incidents

All incidents will be managed by the manager/ deputy and all staff will co-operate with any emergency services on the scene, where applicable. The fire evacuation procedure will be followed for any other incident that requires an emergency evacuation. 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, we will follow the Lockdown policy. Emergency services advice will be taken.

National outbreaks of infection and/or health pandemics

In the event of a national outbreak of a health pandemic, we will follow 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 made 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 Ofsted in the event of a critical incident.