# 

**Playscheme Policy Guide**

University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme

**2021 Version 1.0**

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# Administering Medication Policy

The University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme (UCHP) will only administer medication that has been prescribed by a medical professional. UCHP will however administer piriton for children that have allergies or hayfever. If a child has a severe allergy that potentially excludes them from participating fully during the Playscheme day, UCHP may ask the parent to provide medical documentation from a qualified and medically trained professional supported by their GP to ensure UCHP are able to minimise the risk as far as reasonably possible to protect the child/ren in their care. All medication must be in its original packaging or have the pharmacists label clearly displayed. Medication will never be given without the prior written request of the parent, which will include frequency, dosage, any potential side effects, and any other pertinent information. If a child has medication, which they are reliant upon and therefore must be with them at all, times, such as an Epi Pen, failure to bring such medication to Playscheme will result in UCHP not being able to admit the child. Those children on long-term medication will need a new medication form to be filled out at the start of each holiday.

COVID-19 Amendment

Parents will be required to fill out the medicine form in the outside area of the setting.

Site Co-ordinators/Deputy Site Co-ordinators, One to One workers and First Aid trained Playworkers are designated to administer medication or witness self-administration for each individual child concerned. Site Co-ordinators and Deputy Site Co-ordinators will also be responsible for ensuring that:

* Prior consent is arranged.
* All necessary details are recorded on a **Medication Form**, which is then signed by the parent.
* A new medication form is filled out for each holiday the child attends. Forms cannot be carried over from a previous holiday.
* The medication is properly labelled and safely stored during the session. It should be in its original container with the pharmaceutical label that includes the child’s name, the date, the type of medicine and the dosage.
* Another Playworker acts as a witness to ensure that the correct dosage is given.
* Parents sign the **Medication Form** to acknowledge that the medication has been given.

Wherever possible, children who are prescribed medication should receive their doses at home. If it is necessary for medication to be administered at the University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme (UCHP), it will be stored in a secure location or refrigerated in the kitchen where children do not have access. Please note the UCHP will only give recently prescribed medication, that is in date.

If, for any reason, a child refuses to take their medication, staff will not attempt to force them to do so against their wishes. If and when such a situation occurs, the Playscheme Co-ordinator and the child’s parent will be notified, and the incident recorded on the Medication Record.

Where children carry their own medication (such as asthma pumps or insulin), UCHP recommends that the medication be stored by Playscheme until it is required. This is to minimise possible loss of medication and to ensure the safety of other children. Inhalers should always be labelled with the child’s name.

UCHP ensures that staff have received training in administering auto-injectors for anaphylaxis (e.g. EpiPen). If a child needs medication requiring specialist knowledge or training, only trained staff may administer the medication.

If there is any change in the type of medication – whether regarding dosage or other changes to the information given on the **Medication Form** – a new form must be completed.

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| Signed by Playscheme Co-ordinator |  |
| Date | 07/01/2020 |
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# Anti-Bullying Policy

**The University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme (UCHP) is committed to providing an environment for children that is safe, welcoming and free from bullying (the persistent behaviour by any individual or group which intimidates/threatens or has a harmful or distressing impact on another individual or group). Bullying can be: Emotional, Physical, Racist, Verbal, Psychological, Sexual or Cyber (e.g. text messages). Bullying of any form is unacceptable at UCHP.**

**Emotional:** Being deliberately unkind, shunning or excluding another person from a group or tormenting them. For example, forcing another person to be ‘left out’ of a game or activity, passing notes about others or making fun of another person.

**Physical:** Pushing, scratching, spitting, kicking, hitting, biting, taking or damaging belongings, tripping up, punching or using any other sort of violence against another person.

**Verbal:** Name-calling, put-downs, ridiculing or using words to attack, threaten or insult. For example, spreading rumours or making fun of another person’s appearance.

**Psychological:** Behaviour likely to instil a sense of fear or anxiety in another person.

UCHP recognises that legitimate Play-behaviour may include many of these facets, but when one or more parties becomes targeted on a frequent and recurrent basis, the experience of those affected can be extremely negative. Despite all efforts to prevent it, bullying behaviour may occur on rare occasions and UCHP will respond to all incidents thoroughly and sensitively.

Strategy:

* Site Co-ordinators will use children’s meeting to discuss behaviour, what is appropriate and how children can get help if they need it.
* Playworkers will inform their Site Co-ordinator if they witness an incident of bullying at UCHP.
* Children will be encouraged to report any incidents of alleged bullying immediately and will be reassured that what they say will be taken seriously and handled sensitively.
* If a child or Playworker tells someone they are being bullied, they will be given the time to explain what has happened and reassured that they were right to tell. This may be done by taking the child out of the play space.
* The Site Co-ordinator will always ask the alleged bully to explain their side and take into account their response when deciding whether bullying has occurred. This may be done by taking the child out of the play space.
* If it is decided that bullying behaviour has occurred then in most cases, the behaviour can be addressed by using the strategies in UCHP’s ‘Behaviour Management’ Policy. The alleged bully will be encouraged to discuss their behaviour and think through the consequences of their actions. Where appropriate, they will be encouraged to talk through the incident with the other child/children involved.
* UCHP will inform the parent of all children involved in the alleged bullying on the day of the incident. UCHP will take their lead from the children. If they are visibly distressed or ask to speak to their parent, a phone call will be made.
* All children involved in any bullying incident will be offered support. UCHP may contact the Childcare and Playwork Advisor to enquire about local support groups. These will be passed onto the children and their parents will be informed of this action.
* Where bullying behaviour persists, the alleged bully’s parents will receive a written warning that the child must stop this behaviour.
* If bullying continues, the alleged bully’s parents will receive a final written warning that suspension or exclusion will occur from all UCHP sites if the behaviour does not stop.
* As a final option, if bullying still continues the alleged bully will be excluded from attending the Playscheme for a set period of time as decided by the Playscheme Co-ordinator.
* After the incident has been dealt with Playworkers will monitor the children involved to ensure further problems do not occur.
* If the child who has been bullied, or the alleged bully or their parents have any issues concerning the way the incident had been dealt with, they should contact the Playscheme Co-ordinator immediately.
* Playworkers are kept informed of incidents as they occur via group supervisions.

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# Arrivals and Departures Policy

The University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme (UCHP) will give a warm and friendly welcome to all children and ensure that they depart safely at the end of each session.

COVID-19 Amendment

Parents will not be able to enter the Playscheme venues. Parents will be required to wear face coverings when dropping off and collecting their children. We ask that parents are respectful and adhere to social distancing rules, please do not gather at the entrances. During drop off and collection parents will not be permitted inside the Playscheme venue. There will be a doorbell at the entrance to each setting. Parents will ring the doorbell and a Site Co-ordinator will collect the child/ren and take them to their group. On collection, parents will again ring the doorbell and a Site Co-ordinator will come to the door and then go and collect the child/ren.

An adult in the child/ren’s household or support bubble must collect children.

Any child that is absent without explanation will be called, as per the policy. They will be asked if the absence is related to COVID-19 symptoms.

## 

## Arrivals

On arrival, a member of staff will record the child’s attendance on the daily register, including the time of registration and who will be picking up the child at the end of the session. If the child/ren have not attended Playscheme before, a Playworker will give the child/ren a tour of the site.

The adult collecting the child that day will be recorded on the register. The child’s Annual Registration form will also be checked to ensure that this person is authorised to collect. If they are not, the parent will need to add them to their Annual Registration form. Parents must inform the Site Co-ordinator about any medical needs or pre-existing injuries.

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## Departures

Parents are required to report to the Site Co-ordinator at the main reception door when they arrive to collect their child.

No adult other than those named on the registration form with legal parental responsibility will be allowed to leave University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme with a child, unless a Site Co-ordinator has been informed of a change of circumstance. In the event that someone else should arrive without prior knowledge, a Site Co-ordinator will telephone the parent to confirm collection. Site Co-ordinators are unable to release a child to someone unknown.

If the child is to be collected by someone other than the parent, this must be indicated to a Site Co-ordinator at the start of the session and will be recorded on the register. Only adults and children aged 16 years and over, will be authorised to collect children. Children aged 11 and over may, with written permission from a parent, leave the site independently and/or escort their sibling home at the end of the session. Children aged under 11 may only arrive and depart the site independently if, after a discussion between the Playscheme Co-ordinator and Parent, it is deemed safe to do so. Parents giving permission for their child to leave site independently must understand that once the child leaves the site, UCHP can no longer accept any responsibility for the child. UCHP will not agree to allow a child to leave independently should it believe that this would present an un-acceptable risk to the child.

If the parent or designated adult is going to be late in picking up their child they must call to inform the Site Co-ordinator of their site at the earliest opportunity. If the site is not informed, then the provisions of the ‘Uncollected Children’ policy will be activated. A late fee of 50 pence per minute will be charged for collection after the end of a session regardless of whether the Site Co-ordinator has already been informed.

## Parents under the Influence

If a Playworker has good reason to suspect that a parent is under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol when they drop off or collect their child, they have a duty to inform the UCHP designated Child Protection Officer who, according to the provisions of the Safeguarding policy, will then be responsible for deciding upon the appropriate course of action, ensuring that the safety and protection of the child remains paramount at all times.

Playworkers will make all possible efforts to ensure that children are not allowed to travel in a vehicle driven by someone under the influence of illegal drugs. Where an illegal act such as this is suspected, the following procedure will apply:

* The Site Co-ordinator will immediately assign a Playworker to contact the Playscheme Co-ordinator to explain the situation.
* The Site Co-ordinator will make every effort to delay the parent leaving the site until the Playscheme Co-ordinator arrives.
* If the Site Co-ordinator is unable to prevent the parent from leaving the site and sees them driving away, the Police must be called immediately.
* Once the Playscheme Co-ordinator arrives at the site, they will explain to the parent why they have been prevented from leaving and that they cannot allow the parent to drive their child in their current state.
* The Playscheme Co-ordinator will support the parent in finding another method of transportation home including calling a family member or a taxi.
* If the parent becomes hostile or insists they are fit to drive the Police will be called.
* The Playscheme Co-ordinator will ensure that the incident is documented and Social Care informed.

## Absences

If a child is going to be absent from a session, parents should contact UCHP via the site phones in advance.

If a child is absent without explanation, the Site Co-ordinator will contact the parents to try to ascertain the reasons behind this, following the First Day Call Procedure.

**First Day Call Procedure**

**To ensure the ongoing safety of the children attending UCHP Site Co-ordinators will always call the parents if we are expecting their children at Playscheme but they do not turn up.**

**The Site Co-ordinators will:**

* Complete and check the registers promptly
* Listen to absence calls asap
* Highlight children on the register that are absent with no explanation
* Complete a double check that children highlighted as absent are not at Playscheme and parents have neglected to inform a Site Co-ordinator.
* Start first day calling for children absent without explanation at 11am, Site Co-ordinators will call everyone on the contact list until they get an answer, leaving messages if there is a voicemail option and sending a text message if all else fails
* Call the contact list at least twice
* By this stage, we expect to have had a reply.
* If no response has been received by 12pm the Playscheme Co-ordinator must be notified and the situation explained that you have been unable to make contact with the parents of an absent child.
* The Playscheme Co-ordinator will then make a call to the children's services, MASH team and/or Police to request a welfare call.

Regular absences from UCHP could be an early sign and/or symptom that a child or family may be encountering difficulties and might need support from the relevant statutory agencies. UCHP and its staff will always try to discover the causes of prolonged and unexplained absences in order to safeguard children.

If a child is absent from UCHP then a 100% cancellation fee applies (this applies to sessions cancelled after the close of advanced bookings, exceptional circumstances put into writing will be considered by the Playscheme Co-ordinator. See ‘Bookings’ Policy)

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# Baby Sitting Policy

In line with current Safeguarding recommendations, it is the policy of University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme (UCHP) that Playworkers who are currently on the bank list are not able to babysit for UCHP children or their families away from the setting or outside of Playscheme hours. Exceptions will be made for prior babysitting arrangements made before a Playworker started at UCHP and Playworkers that are family members of UCHP children. In these incidents, the Playworker must inform the Playscheme Co-ordinator in writing by email.

UCHP adopt this policy:

* To safeguard the staff working within the Playscheme, to reduce the risk of conflict of interest and potential allegations.
* To safeguard the confidentiality of our children, colleagues and other parents/carers using the Playscheme.
* To ensure that there is no conflict in our Playworkers working hours or compromise within the setting.
* To ensure that there is no compromise in the care of the child.
* To ensure parent/carer relationships are kept professional and supportive.

UCHP cannot take any responsibility for the health and safety of your child in their own home whilst being cared for by a member of the Playscheme team, and are unable to offer recommendations for babysitters.

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# Behaviour Management Policy

The University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme (UCHP) recognises the importance of positive and effective behaviour management strategies in promoting children’s welfare, learning and enjoyment.

COVID-19 Amendment

If parents need to be contacted about their child’s behaviour, this will be done via a phone call or a zoom meeting. Any child that deliberately puts others at risk by coughing or spitting at them or refusing to comply with the new procedures may face exclusion from UCHP. Parents will be called if their child/ren find attendance at UCHP distressing. UCHP will do all it can to support the social and emotional impact of adjusting to the new and strange Playscheme environment, which will be very different from previous holidays.

If parents need to be spoken to face-to-face they will be invited into UCHP, but will have to wear a face covering and maintain a distance of two metres. Face to face meetings will be a last resort to ensure that direct contact is kept to a minimum.

The aims of our Behaviour Management policy are to help children to:

* Develop a sense of caring and respect for one another.
* Build caring and co-operative relationships with other children and adults.
* Develop a range of social skills and help them learn what constitutes acceptable behaviour.
* Develop confidence, self-discipline and self-esteem in an atmosphere of mutual respect and encouragement.

## Positive Behaviour

UCHP appreciates the demand on Playworkers and children during Playscheme.

***Strategy***

We aim to encourage appropriate behaviour through:

* Praise for specific behaviour.
* Talking to children with the courtesy and respect that we expect of them.
* Negotiating rules between children and Playworkers during each Playscheme as necessary.
* Role-modelling of positive behaviour by Playworkers.

***Fostering Positive Behaviour***

During Playscheme, meetings are held:

* To introduce everybody.
* To inform children who they can go to if they have any questions or issues.
* To discuss ideas and problems, encouraging children to take responsibility for their own behaviour and the well-being of the group.

***Child - Playworker Relationship***

* Playworkers are expected to provide a caring, co-operative and safe environment, respecting the children and other Playworkers.
* Children are expected to respect and co-operate with the Playworkers and other children.

#### 

## Behaviour Management Strategies

UCHP staff will manage behaviour according to clear, consistent and positive strategies. Parents are encouraged to contribute to these strategies by raising any concerns or suggestions.

Behaviour Management in UCHP will be structured around the following principles:

* Staff and children will work together to establish a clear set of ‘ground rules’ governing all behaviour in UCHP. These will be periodically reviewed so that new children have a say in how the rules of the Playscheme operate. Parents are welcome to discuss with Playworkers the Playscheme Ground Rules to encourage unity and consistency
* The Playscheme boundaries will apply equally to all children, staff and parents.
* Positive behaviour will be reinforced with praise and encouragement.
* Challenging behaviour will be addressed in a calm but assertive manner. In the first instance, Playworkers will try to re-direct children’s energies by offering them alternative and positive options. Playworkers will be open in stating and explaining non-negotiable issues.
* When dealing with challenging behaviour, Playworkers will always communicate in a clear, calm and positive manner. For those children who need support in order to behave in an appropriate manner, UCHP will investigate strategies and offer consistent care whilst at the Playscheme.
* Staff and parents will make every effort to set a positive example to children by behaving in a friendly and tolerant manner themselves, promoting an atmosphere where children and adults respect and value one another.
* Playworkers and parents will avoid shouting whilst at UCHP.
* Playworkers will facilitate regular and open discussions with children about their behaviour. This will help children to understand the inappropriate aspects of their behaviour and enable children to have their say and be helped to think through the causes and effects of their actions.
* Playworkers will work as a team by discussing incidents and resolving to act collectively and consistently.
* Site Co-ordinators will endeavour to discuss concerns confidentially with parents at the earliest possible opportunity, in an attempt to help identify the causes of inappropriate behaviour and share strategies for dealing with it.
* Children who experience bullying, racism or other unacceptable behaviour will be actively encouraged to speak to a member of the Playscheme team.
* Playworkers will encourage and facilitate mediation between children to try to resolve conflicts by discussion and negotiation.

## Dealing with Inappropriate Behaviour

When confronted with negative behaviour, staff will be clear to distinguish between ‘disengaged’, ‘disruptive’ and ‘unacceptable’ behaviour.

‘**Disengaged**’ behaviour may indicate that a child is bored, unsettled or unhappy. With sensitive interventions, staff will often be able to re-engage a child in purposeful activity.

‘**Disruptive**’ behaviour describes behaviour which prevents other children from enjoying themselves. Playworkers will collectively discuss incidents and agree on the best way to deal with them.

‘**Unacceptable**’ behaviour refers to non-negotiable actions and may include discriminatory remarks, violence, bullying or destruction of equipment. Staff will be clear that consequences will follow from such behaviour, including in the first instance, temporarily removing a child from the activity session.

When an incident of inappropriate behaviour occurs, staff will listen to the child or children concerned and hear their reasons for their actions. Staff will then explain to the child or children what was unacceptable about their behaviour and that such actions have consequences for both themselves and for other people.

Staff will make every attempt to ensure that children understand what is being said to them. Children will always be given the opportunity to make amends for their behaviour and, if appropriate, be able to re-join the activity. Consideration will be given to the child or young person’s individual needs. Every effort will be made to communicate in the most appropriate manner in order to assist in an improvement in behaviours.

Children who need help in order to behave in an appropriate manner will be given support and consistent strategies to address the matter. Playworkers will seek appropriate training in order to reflect upon the triggers and effects for some children who find some aspects of the play environment stressful.

Parents will be informed of inappropriate behaviour when picking up their child. The parent will be informed of the incident, how it was dealt with, and how the child responded.

In the event that unacceptable behaviour persists, more serious actions may have to be taken, in accordance with the ‘Suspensions and Exclusions’ procedures (below). At all times, children will have explained to them the potential consequences of their actions.

It is recognised that an incident of unacceptable behaviour is a stressful situation for staff and children alike. However, staff will be aware that there is also a need to be mindful of confidentiality and will only discuss such incidents on a ‘benefit to know’ basis. Where causes of incidents suggest possible abuse, child protection procedures will be followed.

## The Use of Physical Interventions

Physical intervention may be recognised as part of an individual’s ‘Care Plan’ and training will be sought.

Playworkers will use physical interventions only as a last resort and only then if they have reasonable grounds for believing that immediate action is necessary to prevent a child from significantly injuring themselves or others, or to prevent serious damage to property.

Before reaching this stage, Playworkers will have used all possible non-physical actions, such as dialogue and diversion, to deal with the behaviour. The child or children concerned will be warned verbally that physical intervention will be used if they do not stop.

A dialogue will be maintained with the child or children at all times, so that the Playworker can explain what they are doing and why they are doing it. Playworkers will avoid the use of physical interventions if they are alone with the child or children. Only the minimum force necessary to prevent injury or damage should be applied, for example, diverting a child by leading them away by a hand or an arm around their shoulders.

Playworkers will use physical intervention as an act of care and control and never punishment. Physical interventions will not be used purely to force a child to do what they have been told, or when there is no immediate risk to people or property.

As soon as it is safe, the physical intervention should be gradually relaxed to allow the child or children to regain self-control.

The force of the physical intervention will be always appropriate to the age, size and strength of the child or children involved.

If Playworkers are not confident about their ability to contain a particular situation or type of behaviour, consideration will be given to calling the Site Co-ordinator first, and then the Playscheme Co-ordinator or, in extreme cases, the police.

Where a Playworker has had to intervene physically to restrain a child, the Playscheme Co-ordinator will be notified and the incident logged. The incident will be discussed with the parents at the earliest possible opportunity.

If a Playworker commits any act of violence or abuse towards a child, parent or other member of the Playscheme team at UCHP, the UCHP Playworker Disciplinary Procedures and Safeguarding Policy will be followed.

## Behaviour Management

##### Playworker Training in Behaviour Management

Opportunities for Playworkers to attend training on Behaviour Management are offered as part of the Group Supervision meetings, wherever possible designed to meet the specific needs of the Playworkers and the children attending UCHP.

##### Informing and Consulting Parents

Should an incident of inappropriate behaviour occur, the child’s parents will be informed. The parent will be informed about the incident, how it was dealt with and how the child responded. On request, a copy of the incident form is given to the parent and a copy kept by UCHP.

##### Open communication and co-operation between Playworkers and parents

Should regular incidents of inappropriate behaviour occur, the parent and the child will be asked to attend a meeting to discuss the behaviours and how they could be rectified. Outcomes of the meeting will be discussed with the Playworkers and any actions put into place.

##### Behaviour Management plans, including risk assessments

UCHP will risk assess behaviour wherever necessary and beneficial to do so.

## Suspensions and Exclusions of Children

Persistent unacceptable behaviour from a child will result in the following:

#### **Formal warning**

Playworkers will explain to the child why their behaviour is unacceptable and the consequences of any further such incidents. Children will be encouraged to discuss their behaviour, to explain their actions, and helped to develop strategies to avoiding repeat incidents. Details of all warnings, suspensions and exclusions will be recorded and kept on the child’s records. Each warning should be discussed with the child concerned and their parents, and wherever possible, agreements made that are fair and reasonable to the situation. Such agreements can include removal of privileges e.g. participation in certain activities/off-site trips. Any agreements should reflect the circumstances and be appropriate to the individual concerned, as this can afford the child opportunity to display positive behaviour whilst serving as a motivator to reinforce such. Playworkers will be made aware of any warnings given to a child, and the implications of any agreements made. UCHP has the right to temporarily suspend; this includes informing a parent their child must be collected immediately, or permanently exclude a child in the event of persistent and irresolvable unacceptable behaviour.

#### **Suspension**

Only in the event of an extremely serious or dangerous incident will a child be suspended from UCHP with immediate effect. In such circumstances, the child’s parents will be contacted and may be asked to collect their child, even if the child normally signs themselves out. Children may not be allowed to leave the premises until a parent arrives to collect them.

After an immediate suspension has taken place, the Playscheme Co-ordinator will arrange a meeting with the child concerned and their parents to discuss the incident and decide if/when it will be possible for them to return to UCHP.

Suspensions should be consistent, fair and proportionate to the behaviour concerned. In setting such a sanction, consideration is given to the child’s age and maturity. Any other relevant information about the child and their situation will also be considered. If appropriate, help and advice will be sought from concerned professionals in order to plan for the child’s return. Every effort will be made in order to support all and strategies will be put in place to promote a positive outcome. This may include seeking funding.

Co-ordinators should always keep parents informed about behaviour management issues relating to their child and attempt to work with them to tackle the causes of disruptive or unacceptable behaviour.

No Co-ordinator may impose a suspension from UCHP without prior discussion with the Playscheme Co-ordinator. Co-ordinators will consult the Playscheme Co-ordinator as early as possible if they believe that a child’s behaviour may warrant suspension or exclusion.

When a suspension is over and before a child is allowed to return to UCHP, there will be a discussion between Co-ordinators, the child and their parents, setting out the conditions of their return.

Parents may discuss the possibility of a refund with the Playscheme Co-ordinator and a decision will be made on whether this is appropriate.

#### **Exclusion**

In an extreme situation whereby all strategies and other attempts to address persistent unacceptable behaviour have been unsuccessful, UCHP has the right to permanently exclude a child. This right will only be exercised where absolutely necessary, but will be done so whereby the duty of care provided to other children and users of UCHP is unduly compromised by irresolvable unacceptable behaviour.

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| Signed by Playscheme Co-ordinator |  |
| Date | 07/01/2020 |
| Review Date | 07/01/2021 |

# Children Settling In Policy

All children are unique and the amount of time that a child takes to settle into University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme (UCHP) can vary enormously. Therefore, children will be given time to settle in at their own pace, so as to make them feel welcome, safe and confident in a new environment.

COVID-19 AMENDMENT

UCHP understand that Playscheme is operating in a different way to usual as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the children may find settling in more challenging. There are new routines to follow, and a different structure to the day. The UCHP team will be working very hard to support children in the new routine of Playscheme.

UCHP will no longer be welcoming parents into the setting, which some children may find upsetting. Site Co-ordinators will do the best they can to help the children come into the setting and settle into their group.

Children new to the Playscheme will be greeted in a warm and friendly manner. They will be introduced to all the Playworkers and told about any other regular visitors to the Playscheme.

Children will be informed about the Playschemes routines and the programme of activities. They will be shown around the Playscheme and told where they can and cannot go.

The Playscheme boundaries and routine of the day will be explained to the child and they will be encouraged to ask questions and raise any concerns. The child will be told about the fire evacuation procedure and shown the locations of fire exits, according to the provisions of the ‘Fire safety and fire risk assessment’.

Parents are offered the opportunity to stay with their child if this helps them to settle.

On their first day, children will be introduced to the other children at the Playscheme. The child will then be encouraged to get to know the other children and settle into the group.

Reception aged children will be assigned a Key-Person who will ensure that the child feels included in play and activities and that their needs are being met. Please refer to the EYFS Policy for more details.

All Playworkers will supervise new children to ensure that they are happy in their new surroundings. The appropriate level of such supervision will be judged according to the child’s age, maturity and previous experiences.

Playworkers will enquire how a child is feeling, what activities they enjoy and if they are unhappy about anything; the Playworkers will also encourage children to contribute during morning and afternoon meetings.

If it seems that a child is taking a long time to settle in, this will be discussed with their parents at the earliest opportunity. Likewise, if a parent feels that there is a problem during the settling in period, they should raise this with the Site Co-ordinators.

Site Co-ordinators will always be available to discuss any concerns or other issues with parents regarding their child and their attendance at the Playscheme. If parents wish to meet with the Playscheme Co-ordinator, they should make an appointment to come in for a chat.

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| Signed by Playscheme Co-ordinator |  |
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| Review Date | 07/01/2021 |

# Children’s Rights Policy

**At University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme we recognise and actively promote that every child does matter and all children have rights; with these rights comes responsibilities.**

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| Articles 1 – 40  The rights and responsibilities of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child | | |
| **Article 1**  Everyone under the age of 18 years of age has all the rights stated in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. | | |
| Rights | Responsibilities | Relevant Club Policies |
| **Article 2**  The convention applies to everyone, whatever their race, religion, abilities, whatever they think, say, whatever type of family they come from. | Everyone has the responsibility to treat others how they wish to be treated with respect, without criticism, or abuse. | Equal Opportunities, Anti Bullying Policies |
| **Article 3**  All organisations concerned with children should work towards what is best for each child. | Everyone has the responsibility to work with the organisation. And to support one another. | Safeguarding, Early Years Foundation Stage, Play Policies |
| **Article 4**  Governments should take all necessary steps to make these rights available to all children. | Everyone has the responsibility to learn and understand and respect these rights. | Admissions Policy |
| **Article 5**  Governments should respect the rights and responsibilities of families to direct and guide their children so that, as they grow, they learn to use their rights properly. | Everyone has the responsibility to learn and understand and respect these rights. | Early Years Foundation Stage, Equal Opportunities Policies |
| **Article 6**  All children have the right to life. Governments should ensure that children survive and develop healthily. | Everyone has the responsibility to be kept safe and to have their basic needs met. | Safeguarding, Sick Children and Accidents, Inclusion Policies |
| **Article 7**  All children have the right to a legally registered name, and nationality. Also the right to know and as far as possible to be cared for by their parents. | Everyone has the responsibility to recognise people by their name and to respect their cultural differences. | Admissions Policy |
| **Article 8**  Governments should respect children’s rights to a name, a nationality and family ties. | Everyone has the responsibility to recognise people by their name and to respect their cultural differences. | Equal Opportunities and Admission Policies |
| **Article 9**  Children should not be separated from their parents unless it is for their own good. For example, if a parent is mistreating or neglecting a child. Children whose parents have separated have the right to stay in contact with both parents, unless they might hurt the child. | Everyone has the responsibility to love and care for others. | Admissions and Safeguarding Policies |
| **Article 10**  Families who live in different countries should be allowed to move between these countries so that parents and children can stay in contact, or get back together as a family | Everyone has the responsibility to respect their cultural differences | Equal Opportunities Policy |
| **Article 11**  Governments should take steps to stop children being taken out of the country illegally | Everyone has the responsibility to keep one another safe | Equal Opportunities Policy |
| **Article 12**  Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them and to have their opinions taken into account | Everyone has the responsibility to be listened to and heard loud and clear so that the needs, wishes and feelings of children are understood and acted upon | Involving and Consulting Children, Safeguarding, Equal Opportunities Policies |
| **Article 13**  Children have the right to get and to share information, as long as the information is not damaging to them or to others | Everyone has the responsibility to only write the truth about others and for that information be made available | Early Years Foundation Stage and Confidentiality Policies |
| **Article 14**  Children have the right to think and believe what they want, and to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Parents should guide their children on these matters | Everyone has the responsibility to respect individuals and their religious differences | Equal Opportunities and Involving and Consulting Children Policies |
| **Article 15**  Children have the right to meet together and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights | Everyone has the responsibility to respect each other’s choices | Equal Opportunities and Involving and Consulting Children Policies |
| **Article 16**  Children have a right to privacy. The law should protect them from attacks against their way of life, their good name, their families and their homes | Everyone has the responsibility to keep one another safe and to respect cultural differences | Safeguarding, Anti Bullying, Equal Opportunities and Confidentiality Policies |
| **Article 17**  Children have the right to reliable information from the mass media. Television, radio and newspapers should provide information that children can understand, and should not promote materials that could harm children | Everyone has the responsibility to make sure that TV, radio, films, music, newspapers and magazines that are available are not offensive to each other | Involving and Consulting Children and Safeguarding Policies |
| **Article 18**  Both parents share responsibility for bringing up their children, and should always consider what is best for each child. Governments should help parents by providing services to support them, especially if both parents work | Everyone has the right to see both parents who help to decide what is best | Admissions Policy |
| **Article 19**  Governments should ensure that children are properly cared for, and protect them from violence, abuse and neglect by their parents, or anyone else who looks after them | Everyone has the responsibility to keep each other safe and to tell a responsible adult if they or they believe somebody is being hurt by an adult | Safeguarding Policy |
| **Article 20**  Children who cannot be looked after by their own family must be looked after properly, by people who respect their religion, culture and language | Everyone has the responsibility to respect cultural differences | Equal Opportunities Policy |
| **Article 21**  When children are adopted the first concern must be what is best for them. The same rules should apply whether the children are adopted in the country where they were born, or if they are taken to live in another country | Everyone has the responsibility to respect cultural differences | Equal Opportunities Policy |
| **Article 22**  Children who come into a country as refugees should have the same rights as children born in that country | Everyone has the responsibility to respect their cultural differences | Equal Opportunities Policy |
| **Article 23**  Children who have any kind of disability should have special care and support, so that they can lead full and independent lives | Everyone has the responsibility to respect others for their differences | Equal Opportunities and Admissions Policies |
| **Article 24**  Children have the right to good quality health care, to clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment so that they will stay healthy. Rich countries should help poor countries achieve this | Everyone has the responsibility to help others get clean water, basic health care and to prevent others from starving | Health and Safety, Administering Medication, Healthy Eating Policies |
| **Article 25**  Children who are looked after by the local authority, rather than their parents should have their situation reviewed regularly | Everyone has the responsibility to be listened to and heard loud and clear so that the needs, wishes and feelings of children are understood and acted upon | Involving and Consulting Children Policy |
| **Article 26**  The government should provide extra money for the children of families in need | Everyone has the responsibility to spend money wisely | Admissions and Fees Policy |
| **Article 27**  Children have a right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and mental needs. The government should help families who cannot afford to provide this | Everyone has the responsibility to make sure all children have a standard of living that meets their basic needs | Safeguarding Policy |
| **Article 28**  All children and young people have a right to primary education, which should be free. Wealthy countries should help poorer countries to achieve this. Discipline in schools should respect children’s human dignity. Young people should be encouraged to reach the highest level of education they are capable of | Everyone has the responsibility to encourage and develop one another | Early Years Foundation Stage, Behaviour Management, Play Policies |
| **Article 29**  Education should develop each child’s personality and talents to the full. It should encourage children to respect their parents, and their own and other cultures | Everyone has the responsibility to encourage and develop | Equal Opportunities, Early Years Foundation Stage Policies |
| **Article 30**  Children have a right to learn and use language and customs of their families, whether these are shared by the majority of people in the country or not | Everyone has the responsibility to encourage and respect the development of other languages and customs | Equal Opportunities Policy |
| **Article 31**  All children have the right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of activities | Everyone has the responsibility to play how they want to, when they want to and with whom they want | Play Policy |
| **Article 32**  The government should protect children from work that is dangerous, or might harm their health or education | Everyone has the responsibility to keep one another safe from harm | Health and Safety, Playworker Employment and Recruitment Policies |
| **Article 33**  The government should provide ways of protecting children from dangerous drugs | Everyone has the responsibility to protect each other from using dangerous drugs | Smoking Drugs and Alcohol, Safeguarding Policies |
| **Article 34**  The government should protect children from sexual abuse | Everyone has the responsibility to keep all children safe from abuse | Safeguarding, Playworker Employment and Recruitment Policies |
| **Article 35**  The government should make sure children are not abducted or sold | Everyone has the responsibility to keep all children safe from harm | Safeguarding, Playworker Employment and Recruitment Policies |
| **Article 36**  Children should be protected from activities that could harm their development | Everyone has the responsibility to keep all children safe from harm | Health and Safety, Risk Assessment, Play Policies |
| **Article 37**  Children who break the law should not be treated cruelly. They should not be put in prison with adults and should be able to keep contact with their parents | Everyone has the responsibility to be kept safe from harm and have their needs met | Safeguarding Policy |
| **Article 38**  Governments should not allow children under 15 to join the army | Everyone has the responsibility to be kept safe from harm | Safeguarding Policy |
| **Article 39**  Children who have been neglected or abused should receive special help to restore their self-respect | Everyone has the responsibility to be kept safe from harm, and to love and care for others | Safeguarding, Inclusion Policies |
| **Article 40**  Children who are accused of breaking the law should receive legal help. Prison sentences for children should only be used for the most serious offences | Everyone has the responsibility to listen to one another and have their needs met |  |

At University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme we recognise that every day matters for every child

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| Signed by Playscheme Co-ordinator |  |
| Date | 07/01/2020 |
| Review Date | 07/01/2021 |

# Complaints Policy

University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme (UCHP) is committed to providing a safe, stimulating, consistent and accessible service to children, their parents, and to our staff. We always aim to provide high quality services for everyone, but accept that sometimes things do not always go to plan. In such circumstances, we want to know of any concerns so that we can put them right and learn from our mistakes.

COVID-19 AMENDMENT

Whilst children and parents adjust to the new routine of Playscheme, UCHP understand that parents may have concerns about operational matters that they will want to discuss. In the first instance this can be done via discussion using the telephone or a zoom meeting. Face to face discussions will be avoided where possible, but if they are necessary parents will be asked to wear a face covering and maintain a distance of two metres. Parents wishing to make a formal complaint can do so, UCHP will as far as possible, given the COVID-19 situation, follow the policy below.

This policy constitutes the University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme formal Complaints Procedure. Under normal circumstances, the Playscheme Co-ordinator will be responsible for managing complaints and communicating with the Manager of Childcare Services. If a complaint is made against the Playscheme Co-ordinator, the Manager of Childcare Services will conduct the investigation. All complaints made will be recorded in detail and stored.

## Stage One

If a child, parent or staff member has a complaint about some aspect of the University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme activity, or about the conduct of an individual member of staff, it will often be possible to resolve the problem by speaking to the Site Co-ordinator and/or to the Playscheme Co-ordinator. As outlined in the ‘Partnership with Parents Policy, UCHP is committed to regular and open dialogue with parents, and the Playscheme welcomes all comments on its services, regardless of whether they are positive or negative. UCHP also requests feedback from parents and children via regular evaluations and questionnaires.

In the first instance, children, parents or staff are encouraged to speak directly to the Site Co-ordinator, if deemed appropriate. Alternatively, the Playscheme Co-ordinator should be approached, who will try to resolve the problem. If a satisfactory resolution cannot be found, then Stage Two of the procedure will formally come into operation. All complaints will be logged so that issues can be reviewed as part of UCHP’s commitment to maintain best practice.

## Stage Two

If informal discussions of a complaint or problem have not produced a satisfactory resolution to the situation, the child, parents or staff should put their complaint in writing to the Playscheme Co-ordinator. Relevant names, dates, evidence and any other important information on the nature of the complaint should be included.

UCHP will acknowledge receipt of the complaint as soon as possible usually within three to seven working days. The matter will be fully investigated within 28 working days after acknowledging the receipt of the complaint. If there is any delay, UCHP will advise the child, parents or staff member of this and offer an explanation. The Playscheme Co-ordinator will be responsible for sending a full and formal response to the complainant.

If the complaint has Child Protection implications, UCHP Designated Child Protection Officers will be informed and will ensure that the local Social Care department is contacted, according to the procedure set out in the ‘Safeguarding’ and Child Protection Policy. If any party involved in the complaint has good reason to believe that a criminal offence has been committed, then the police will be contacted.

The Playscheme Co-ordinator may arrange to meet the child, parent or staff member concerned and any other relevant individuals, such as members of staff, to discuss the complaint and the University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme response to it. The Playscheme Co-ordinator will judge if it is best for all parties to meet together or if individual meetings are more appropriate.

Either party may need to consider consulting an external mediator who is acceptable to both parties and will offer support and advice. Any mediator must ensure discussions are kept confidential.

A formal response to the complaint will be sent to the child, parent or staff member concerned and copied to all relevant members of staff if appropriate. The response will include recommendations for dealing with the complaint and for any amendments to the UCHP’s policies or procedures emerging from the investigation.

If, at the conclusion of this process, the child, parents or staff member remain dissatisfied with the response they have received, the original complaint along with UCHP’s response will be passed to the Manager of Childcare Services who will adjudicate the case.

The Manager of Childcare Services will communicate a detailed response, including any actions to be taken, to both the Playscheme Co-ordinator and the parents concerned within 28 working days.

If the child, parent or staff member is dissatisfied with the response they can request that it is reviewed. The appeal will go to the University Staff Childcare Committee via the Manager of Childcare Services. The request for appeal must be made within two weeks of receiving the Manager of Childcare Services response. The appeal will not be a reconsideration of the original complaint, but a review to check that procedure has been followed and that a reasonable outcome has been reached. You can request a review if you feel that

1. The complaints procedure was not followed and this affected the outcome
2. The decision reached was not reasonable in view of all the circumstances
3. You have new evidence which you were not able to provide earlier in the complaints process for a valid reason.

Alternatively you can make a complaint to Ofsted.

## Making a Complaint to Ofsted

Any child, parent or staff member can, at any time, submit a complaint to Ofsted about any aspect of registered childcare provision. Ofsted will consider and investigate all complaints received that are in breach of the relevant statutory requirements.

#### Ofsted Address:

Royal Exchange Building, St Ann’s Square, Manchester, M2 7LA 0300 123 1231

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| Signed by Playscheme Co-ordinator |  |
| Date | 07/01/2020 |
| Review Date | 07/01/2021 |

# Confidentiality Policy

University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme (UCHP) respects the privacy of children, parents and Playworkers, while ensuring we provide high quality care and play opportunities in our setting. We recognise the importance of maintaining up-to-date policies and procedures necessary to operate safely and efficiently in accordance with the law. Therefore, it is important that the information we hold about the children that attend UCHP is accurate and regularly updated.

COVID-19 AMENDMENT

UCHP are committed to maintain the Confidentiality of all that are a part of the setting. We understand that whilst parents are unable to enter the setting, they may have confidential information that they wish to discuss with a Site Co-ordinator on arrival/departure. Site Co-ordinators will do the best they can to offer a private space to talk outside of the setting. If this is not possible, parents may be asked to call the Site Co-ordinators or Playscheme Co-ordinator at a mutually convenient time of the day.

#### We aim to ensure that all parents can share information in the confidence that it will only be used to enhance the welfare of their children.

UCHP meet the requirements of the Human Rights Act 1998 with regard to protecting the individual’s rights to a private family life, home and correspondence. Our only justification to interfere with this ‘right’ is where we believe that a child may be at risk of significant harm or to prevent a crime or disorder.

## Data protection: records maintained by UCHP about children

UCHP is aware of its obligations with regard to the storing and sharing of information and is committed to complying with the regulations and guidance. UCHP is committed to a policy of openness with parents with regard to its policies and procedures and the information that UCHP holds on their child. UCHP meets the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation with regard to the information kept about children and their families. Information is collected through means of the Annual Registration and Booking Forms, medical forms, and through continued interactions with parents. Other records about children include correspondence concerning the child or family; reports or minutes from meetings concerning the child from other agencies; an on-going record of relevant contact with parents; observations by staff on any confidential matter involving the child, such as developmental concerns or child protection matters, incident and accident logs; medical forms; care plans; and behaviour plans. Users are responsible for communicating changes of information. The information we hold is required to support UCHP in the high quality care of your children. The information we collect is only accessed as necessary by UCHP staff and is stored on protected University computers; a hard copy for those children attending the current Playscheme is kept in a lockable filing cabinet onsite while the Playscheme is in operation, and is secured in the Childcare Office when the Playscheme is not in operation. UCHP will not collect or retain more data than is necessary. We have regard to the common law duty of confidentiality and only share information with other professionals or agencies on a ‘benefit to know’ basis, with consent from parents, or without their consent in specified circumstances relating to the safeguarding of children. More information on data protection rights is published on the University website at <https://www.information-compliance.admin.cam.ac.uk/data-protection/general-data>

## Records maintained about UCHP Playworkers

An up to date record is kept of all the Playworkers who work at the UCHP, including: application forms and references, evidence of Disclosure and Baring Service checks disclosure number/date and subscription to the Update Service, right to work in the UK evidence; copies of certificates of relevant training and qualifications; emergency contact numbers; up to date name; address; telephone number; employment details and wages information; any other information (such as Personal Development Plans) during their time spent working at UCHP.

## Other records maintained by UCHP

* A comprehensive set of policies and procedures are maintained as required by the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage and/or Childcare Register (Compulsory or Voluntary) that are reviewed when appropriate
* A Self Evaluation Form completed and contributed to by all Playworkers
* Sign in Sheets
* The daily attendance registers
* Records of the play activities implemented by UCHP including off-site visits and outings
* Records of any medication being held by UCHP on behalf of children, along with the signed Medication Form
* Records of signed Emergency Medical Treatment Forms, giving parental authorisation for Playworkers to consent to emergency treatment for children (in accordance with the ‘Administering Medication’ policy)
* Provider Complaints Log completed by the Playscheme Co-ordinator and details of any complaints
* An Inventory Record of equipment owned or used by UCHP
* Ofsted Registration Certificate
* Any Insurance certificates and information
* Fire Drill and Lockdown Log
* Risk assessments and daily Health and Safety checks
* Toilet and Kitchen checks

## Retention periods for records pertaining to children and Playworkers

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Name of record | Retention period | Authority |
| **Children’s records** – including registers, Annual Registrations and Booking Forms, care plans, EYFS development files, etc. | A reasonable period of time after the children have left the provision. UCHP have decided this to be 3 years which corresponds with the Ofsted inspection cycle. | Requirement of the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (given legal force by Childcare Act 2006) |
| **Children’s records** – including medication records, accident/incident records and safeguarding files. | Until the children reaches 24 years of age. With exception to the Safeguarding files which is until a child reaches the age of 25. | Recommendation of the Limitation Act 1980 which states an individual can claim for negligently caused personal injury up to 3 years after, or deliberately caused personal injury up to 6 years after the event are postponed until a child reaches 18 years of age. |
| **Playworker personnel records** – personnel files and training records (including disciplinary records and working time records) DBS check.  Wages records (including overtime, bonuses and expenses).  Staff accident records | 6 years after causal work has ceased.  3 years after the date the record was made. Or 40 years after the date of the record if the accident involves substances hazardous to health. | Recommended by Chatered Institute of Personnel and Development.  Taxes Management Act 1970  The Control of Sunstances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 |
| **Accounting records** – including records of parent payments | 6 years from the end of the financial year | Companies Act 2006 |

## Information Sharing concerning Child Protection Issues

There are times when we are required to share information about a child or their family. These are when:

* There are concerns a child is or may be suffering significant harm.
* There are concerns about ‘serious harm to adults’ (such as domestic violence or other matters affecting the welfare of parents).

We explain to families about our duty to share information for the above reasons.

Where we have concerns, we would normally gain consent from families to share these. This does not have to be in writing, but a written record will be made that verbal consent has been given.

We do not seek consent from parents to share information where we believe that a child, or a vulnerable adult, may be endangered by seeking to gain consent. For example, where we have cause to believe a parent may try to cover up abuse, threaten a child or the parent is the alleged abuser.

Where we take a decision to share information without consent it is recorded in the child’s file and the reason clearly stated.

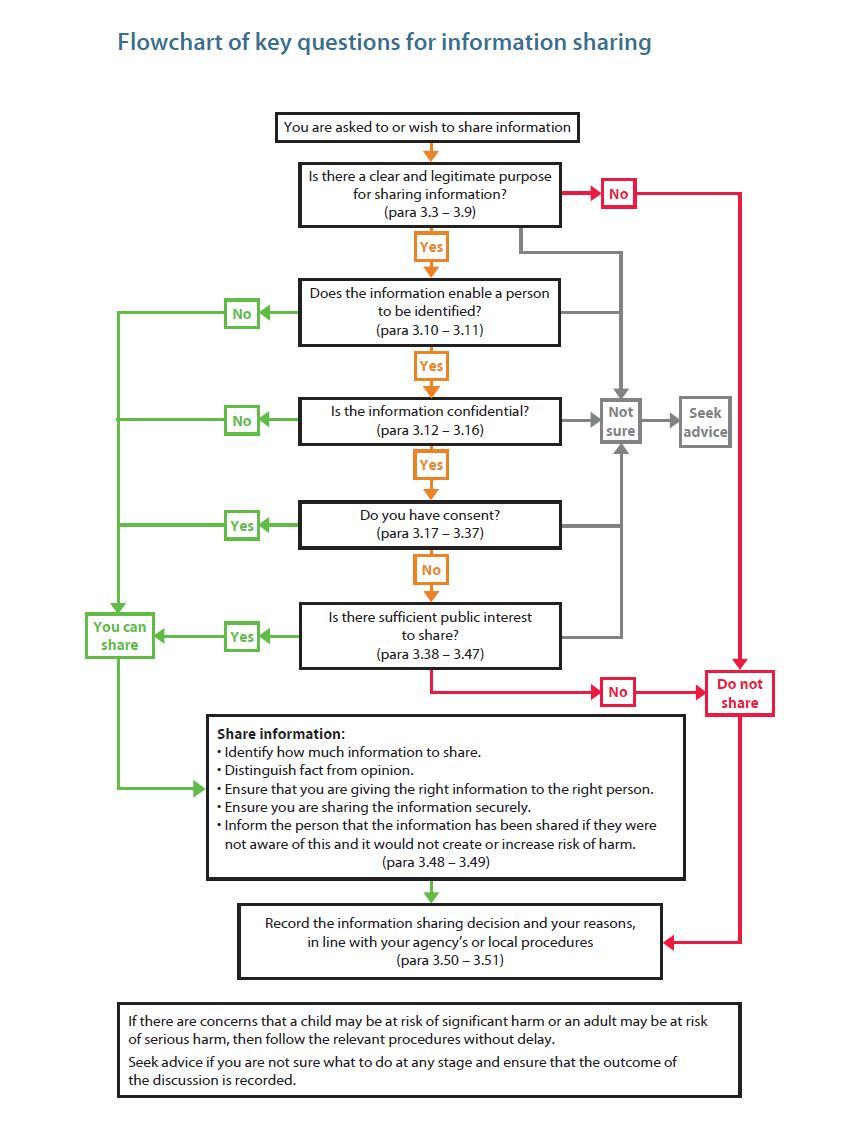
Where evidence to support our concerns is not clear we may seek advice from the local Social Care agency or the NSPCC.

We only share relevant information that is accurate, factual, non-judgemental and up to date.

What Information will be shared

When taking decisions about what information to share, the Safeguarding Designated Person will consider how much information they need to release and the impact of disclosing such information, ensuring that it is proportionate to the need and level of risk. Only information that is relevant to the purposes will be shared with those who need it. Information sharing decisions must be recorded, whether or not the decision is taken to share. If the decision is made to share, reasons should be cited including what information has been shared and to whom. If the decision is made not to share, the Designated Person will record the reasons for this decision and discuss them with the person requesting the information.

UCHP use the following flowchart when making decisions about when and how we will share information



UCHP are asked or decide to share information

Share information:

* Identify how much information to share.
* Distinguish fact from opinion.
* Ensure that you are giving the right information to the right individual on a need-to-know basis.
* Inform the individual that the information has been shared if UCHP deem it necessary and only if would not create or increase risk of harm.

UCHP then record the information sharing decision and the reasons for doing so. A record of who was informed and the date and time is also kept.

If there are concerns that a child is suffering or likely to suffer harm then UCHP will follow the relevant procedures as set out in the UCHP Safeguarding Policy without delay. UCHP will seek advice if unsure what to do at any stage and ensure that the outcome of the decision is recorded.

Is there another reason to share information such as to fulfil a legal responsibility or to protect the vital interests of individuals concerned and/or relevant information?

## Information Sharing Concerning a Child’s Development

UCHP is committed to the development of the children attending the Playscheme. With the introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and a higher emphasis on providing high quality care through partnership and collaboration, we will be observing the development of EYFS children during their time at Playscheme. With the permission of parents we will be sharing this, as necessary, with other services that may be involved in the care of your children such as the school the child attends.

UCHP is also committed to working with children with additional needs. To achieve this, UCHP, with parental permission, will gather and share information between services such as schools, local ‘Inclusion Teams’, Health Care professionals and other outside agencies. The information will be used to provide consistency of care and offer support suited to a child’s needs.

## Notification of Changes to Ofsted

UCHP recognises its responsibilities in keeping children, parents, Playworkers and Ofsted informed of any changes to the running or management of UCHP that will directly affect them.

Wherever possible, if changes are to be made, affected parties will be given as much warning as possible. In the case of proposed changes that are of considerable scope or importance, UCHP will facilitate consultation with the affected groups or individuals.

In the following cases, it is mandatory for UCHP to inform Ofsted at the earliest possible opportunity:

* Any change in Management or appointed person and people living on the premises.
* Any significant change to the premises.
* Any allegation of abuse by a Playworker or volunteer, or any abuse which is alleged to have taken place on the premises.
* Change of UCHP name or address.
* Safeguarding concerns that have occurred on a UCHP site
* Any other significant events.

#### Other records

Issues to do with UCHP casual workers, whether paid or unpaid, remain confidential to the people directly involved with making personnel decisions.

## Access to personal records

Parents may request access to any records held on their child and family following the procedure below.

* Any request to see the child's personal file by a parent or person with parental responsibility must be made in writing to the Playscheme Co-ordinator.
* The Playscheme Co-ordinator will inform the Manager of Childcare Services and the University of Cambridge Data Protection Office of the request and will send a written acknowledgement.
* The UCHP will provide access to requested records within the legal timeframe once the file has been prepared by the Playscheme Co-ordinator.
* All third parties are written to, stating that a request for disclosure has been received and asking for their permission to disclose to the person requesting it. Copies of these letters are retained on the file.
* 'Third parties' include all family members who may be referred to in the records.
* ‘Third parties’ also includes workers from any other agency, including Social Care, the Health Authority, etc. It is usual for agencies to refuse consent to disclose, preferring the individual to go directly to them.
* When all the consents/refusals to disclose have been received these are attached to the copy of the request letter.
* A photocopy of the complete file is taken as a record.
* The Playscheme Co-ordinator will go through the file and remove any information that a third party has refused consent to disclose. This is best done with a thick black marker, to score through every reference to the third party and information they have added to the file.
* What remains is the information recorded by UCHP, detailing the work initiated and followed by them in relation to confidential matters. This is called the 'clean copy'.
* The 'clean copy' is photocopied for the parents who are then invited into the Childcare Office to discuss the contents. The file will never be given to the parent, but should be shared by the Playscheme Co-ordinator, so that it can be explained.
* Legal advice may be sought before sharing a file, especially where the parent has possible grounds for litigation against UCHP or another (third party) agency. Support from UCHPs’ Childcare and Playworker Advisor would also be sought.

All the undertakings above are subject to the paramount commitment of the University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme, which is to the safety and well-being of the child. Please see also UCHPs’ policy on ‘Safeguarding’ and ‘Child Protection Whistleblowing’.

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| Signed by Playscheme Co-ordinator |  |
| Date | 07/01/2020 |
| Review Date | 07/01/2021 |

# Food Preparation and Serving Policy

**The University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme (UCHP) prepares food and drinks for the children at morning and afternoon snack times. Regular cooking and food preparation activities are also undertaken with the children. UCHP does not serve lunch to the children and parents are asked to supply a packed lunch. The procedures used for food preparation and serving are laid out in the ‘Food Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Plan’ below.**

**It is a legal requirement for childcare settings providing food to carry out an assessment of the risks involved in food preparation. UCHP follows the ‘Safer Food, Better Business’ document issued by the Food Standards Agency. The Food Information Regulation has introduced a requirement that food businesses must provide information about the allergenic ingredients used in the food we provide. UCHP conforms to this legislation and information can be found on the parent noticeboard.**

**COVID AMENDMENT**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, UCHP have decided not to provide snacks for the children, asking parents to provide this for their child. This decision will be reviewed after the October 2020 Playscheme. Fresh water and squash will be available in each of the rooms to ensure children are well hydrated.

The Food Hygiene (England) Regulations 2006 state that:

* All operations are carried out in a hygienic way.
* All food safety hazards are identified and effectively controlled, by:
  + Analysing the identified food safety hazards.
  + Deciding which hazards are critical to food safety (i.e. critical points).
  + Identifying and implementing effective hazard controls.
  + Monitoring procedures at the critical points.
  + Reviewing the above periodically and when necessary.

The above processes aim to help to prevent problems rather than reacting to them after they have happened.

## Food Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Plan (HACCP)

At the University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme (UCHP), we minimise risk generally by operating under the following principles:

* No raw meats are used at Playscheme. A separate risk assessment will be conducted in rare instances when they are used.
* At least one Playworker per setting (and usually many more Playworkers) has had appropriate food preparation training e.g. CIEH Basic Food Hygiene Level 2 Certificate. Trained Playworkers will supervise all food activities that take place during Playscheme.
* Only Playworkers with a Level 2 Qualification on Food Hygiene will prepare snack.
* Staff are made aware at induction and during training that any sickness involving vomiting or diarrhoea must be reported and that they should refrain from handling food until 48 hours after symptoms.
* Packed lunches are provided by parents so are not covered by our procedures. However it is stated on our website that we do not have sufficient fridge space to store packed lunches so parents are encouraged to put an ice pack in packed lunch boxes. An information leaflet is offered to parents offering guidance about the preparation of packed lunches.
* The Playscheme Co-ordinator and/or Deputy Playscheme Co-ordinator monitor weekly that the steps below are being followed.

The five critical control points (CCPs) below detail the hazards present at each stage of the food preparation process and the controls that are put in place to minimise the risks present to an acceptable level. The critical control limits have been underlined.

## CCP 1 – PURCHASE AND DELIVERY OF FOODS

**Hazards:**

* The supplier of food purchased may sell poor quality food.
* The ‘use by’ and ‘best before’ dates may not be current.
* Once purchased high risk foods may not be delivered using appropriate storage conditions.

**Controls:**

* Food is purchased from reputable well known suppliers e.g. Sainsbury’s, Waitrose, Co-op and Tesco.
* Where ever possible foods are delivered by the supplier in refrigerated vans.
* **Chilled/frozen food purchased at the suppliers by Playscheme is delivered to the Playscheme site within 1 hour and stored immediately in an on-site fridge/freezer.**
* Cool bags can be used in our cars, whenever possible to transport foods.
* All ‘use by’ and ‘best before’ dates are checked when food is unpacked on site.
* Details of food purchased are kept as a record of their origin in the ‘Food Purchase Record’ wallet in the Safer Food folder on site.
* The condition of food delivered is recorded on the ‘Food Delivery Record’ in the Safer Food folder on site. If food is delivered in an unacceptable condition then this is logged and the food is either disposed of or returned to the supplier.
* **Refrigerated deliveries above 8°C will be rejected.**

## CCP 2 – RECEIPT AND STORAGE OF FOOD

**Hazards:**

* Growth of bacteria during period from receipt to storage.
* Chilled and frozen foods not stored at required temperatures.
* Food stored during or between Playschemes may be contaminated or ‘use by’ or ‘best before’ dates may have expired.
* Contamination from pests, chemicals, storage areas, surfaces and food packaging.

**Controls:**

* All stored food must be suitably packaged, covered or wrapped in a clean, designated area that is off the floor and away from cleaning chemicals.
* **All chilled foods must be stored in the fridge within 15 minutes of delivery.**
* All frozen foods must be stored in the freezer. UCHP very rarely purchases frozen foods.
* **Fridge temperatures must be checked daily to ensure they are between 2-5°C. If freezers are in use, temperatures must be below -18 degrees C.** This information is recorded on the ‘Fridge Temperature Record’ in the Safer Food folder on site.
* ‘Use by’ and ‘best before’ dates are checked before food is prepared.
* ‘Use by’ and ‘best before’ dates are checked weekly during the Easter and summer Playschemes.
* **Food that is spoiled or past its ‘use by’ date is disposed of. Food past its best before date will be checked to see if it is suitable to be served. Eggs will never be used after the ‘best before’ date has expired.** If food is disposed of for any of these reasons then it will be recorded in the diary section of the Safer Food folder.
* Hard cheese to be purchased in small blocks to avoid being used over a long period of time.
* Prepared foods are stored above unprepared and high risk foods in the fridge.
* Low risk food (dry food) stored between Playschemes in our equipment stores is placed in sealed containers and stored in a dry area.
* Fresh eggs are stored in the egg boxes they are packed in. All eggs purchased must be lion branded. All surfaces used when using raw eggs must be cleaned with anti-bacterial spray and hands washed immediately after use.
* Stock is rotated so older stock is used first.
* Food storage areas and surfaces are cleaned daily with antibacterial spray in accordance with their instructions and a disposable cloth.
* Dirty food packaging is disposed of immediately.
* Cleaning chemicals are stored away from food preparation areas.
* Daily checks are carried out in which any evidence of pest infestations are looked for. If evidence is discovered then this is immediately reported to the site coordinator who will put measures in place to solve the problem (this may include disposing of potentially contaminated food). If the problem cannot be solved in this manner then the relevant contact person within the school will be contacted. Temporary measures will be put in place to ensure that food prepared will be safe to eat whilst the infestation is dealt with.

## CCP 3 – PREPARATION OF READY-TO-EAT FOOD

**Hazards:**

* Cross contamination between high risk foods and ready-to-eat foods.
* Physical materials getting into food posing a risk of contamination and choking.
* Spread of bacteria from the person preparing food to the food.
* Spread of bacteria from surfaces and equipment to the food.
* Contamination due to storage and use of chemicals in food preparation areas.
* Growth of bacteria/toxins in food during preparation time.
* Cooked food that has not been heated adequately so as to kill most bacteria.

**Controls:**

* Low risk foods are mainly used at UCHP.
* Food preparation and cooking activities are supervised by a competent Playworker, where possible with appropriate food safety training.
* All reasonable personal hygiene controls must be taken. These include the following procedures:
  + Hands and nails are washed thoroughly before food is prepared and hand-wash reminder posters are displayed. Children wash their hands before eating or taking part in cooking activities.
  + When preparing food, hands are washed after any action that poses a risk of cross contamination. Examples include going to the toilet, touching raw meat, poultry or eggs, emptying bins, cleaning, touching a cut or changing a dressing, cleaning up accidents (vomiting or diarrhoea), and wiping or blowing a nose.
  + Due to space limitations at some sites, hands will be washed in the same sink that is used for washing up and cleaning fruit and vegetables. All items must be removed from the sink before washing hands. Taps should be turned off using a paper hand towel.
  + Hands are dried using disposable hand towels.
  + Avoid touching face, nose, or hair whilst handling food.
  + Avoid coughing and sneezing over food.
  + Tie up long hair when preparing food.
  + Those wearing nail polish or with skin conditions should wear sterile gloves when handling food.
  + Cuts and sores should be completely covered with a waterproof dressing, ideally a brightly coloured one.
  + Remove watches and jewellery when preparing food.
  + Make sure clothes are clean. Ideally wear an apron when preparing food.
  + **Nobody is to prepare food if they have or have had diarrhoea and/or vomiting until they have had no symptoms for 48 hours.**
  + Bins are kept covered.
* All cooking equipment is cleaned and disinfected after use and stored appropriately.
* Food contact surfaces are kept clean by using antibacterial sprays.
* Food-use only aprons are worn by children taking part in cooking activities.
* Chopping boards are not colour coded as raw meats are not used. High risk foods (including unwashed fruit and vegetables) are never prepared on chopping boards before ready-to-eat foods.
* Disposable cloths only are used for food related cleaning. These are disposed of after use.
* Food is only taken out of storage when ready for use.
* **During food preparation, high-risk foods should be kept out at room temperature for no more than 90 minutes.**
* All fruit and vegetables are washed thoroughly or peeled before use.
* **Snacks left at room temperature are eaten within 4 hours of being prepared or disposed of.**
* Food waste is disposed of in the bins provided and removed from the building at the end of the day.
* No frozen foods are generally used or thawed at Playscheme. A separate risk assessment will be conducted in instances when they are used.
* Cleaning chemicals are stored away from food preparation areas and not used in food preparation areas whilst food is being prepared.
* Food that is suspected to have come into contact with cleaning chemicals is disposed of.

## CCP 4 – HEATING AND COOKING OF FOOD

**Hazards:**

* Inadequate cooking time leading to growth of bacteria.

**Controls:**

* **All cooked food to be cooked quickly to a minimum temperature of 75 degrees that is achieved for a minimum of 30 seconds using a calibrated temperature probe.**
* UCHP do not re-heat food or serve re-heated food to the children that attend.

## CCP 5 – SERVING OF FOOD AND EATING TIMES

**Hazards:**

* Spread of bacteria or other harmful substances from eating areas to food.
* Growth of bacteria on prepared food that has been left at room temperature.
* Allergic reactions to food substances.
* Children and adults can choke on small pieces of food .

**Controls:**

* Food contact surfaces are kept clean by using antibacterial sprays.
* **Snacks left at room temperature are eaten within 4 hours of being prepared or disposed of.**
* Parents are requested to inform Playscheme of any special dietary needs or any allergies that their child may suffer from on the annual registration form which is completed annually. This information is displayed in the kitchen area on site and must be checked before any food preparation or cooking activities take place.
* If a child/ren’s allergy is severe UCHP may ask the parent to provide medical documentation from a medically trained professional supported by their GP to ensure UCHP are able to minimise the risk as far as reasonably possible to protect the child/ren.
* Children are made aware of the allergens present in the snacks available.
* Parents are made aware that all UCHP settings are nut-free sites. If a child is observed to have nuts in their packed lunch then their parent will be spoken to.
* First aider present on site to deal with any incidents of choking. Staff supervising snack and lunch times to be aware of possibility of children choking.

## CCP 6 – PREPARING FOOD WITH THE CHILDREN

**Hazards:**

* Children spreading harmful bacteria onto the food.
* Accidents such as cuts and burns.

**Controls:**

* A trained member of staff to supervise all food preparation activities.
* Children to wash hands before starting food preparation as well as after any activity that poses a risk of cross-contamination. Children will be spoken to about hygiene before the start of the activity.
* When mixing food, take care that spoons (and fingers) are not licked until afterwards.
* Any activity involving use of hot appliances such as kettles, ovens, toasters, and hobs should be closely supervised. Children will be spoken to about the risks involved of using such equipment and if necessary, equipment will be moved so that it is out of reach.
* Children will be demonstrated safe use of knives and only given chopping activities that they are safely able to manage. Use of knives will be supervised appropriately. Knives will be washed separately from other equipment.

The effectiveness of the HACCP will be monitored daily by the site co-ordinator and weekly by either the Playscheme Co-ordinator or Deputy Playscheme Co-ordinator. This will involve checking that all paperwork demonstrates that the HACCP is being followed as well as an inspection of the food preparation area to check that it meets the desired standard of cleanliness. Any deviations from the HACCP will be logged and corrective actions immediately taken.

## Advertising the allergens in our snacks

On the parent noticeboard and in the Safer Food folder we display information about which allergens are present in our most common snacks.

At snack times, we will present information to the children about which allergens are present in the snacks available.

Should a parent, child or staff member wish to make a complaint about the food served at UCHP they may do so by contacting the Playscheme Co-ordinator.

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| Signed by Playscheme Co-ordinator |  |
| Date | 07/01/2020 |
| Review Date | 07/01/2021 |

# Disclosure and Baring Service (DBS) Policy

The University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme (UCHP) recognises that the safety of children and young people is paramount and our work practice reflects a safer recruitment approach. UCHP is committed to implementing the Disclosure and Barring Services (DBS) procedures and arrangements.

UCHP require all staff to hold an Enhanced DBS Certificate (previously an Enhanced CRB Certificate). An enhanced certificate involves an extra level of check with local police force records in addition to checks with the Police National Computer and the government department lists held by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and Department of Health, where appropriate.

When recruiting Playworkers, applicants will be asked to state any convictions on their application form. Those invited to attend an interview will be advised that relevant criminal convictions will be discussed in order to assess job related risks. When Playworkers are offered a position at UCHP, subject to satisfactory references, they will be asked to complete a DBS form and bring the relevant ID with them to be verified by UCHP. Prior to their first Playwork shift, Playworkers will be expected to provide a valid DBS certificate. UCHP will pay for a Playworkers first DBS certificate. If the first or subsequent DBS certificates reveal any convictions the Playworker will be invited to attend a meeting to discuss the offence. Having a criminal record will not necessarily bar applicants from working at UCHP. This will be dependent on the nature, circumstances and background of the offence, and the time since the conviction occurred. However, failure to reveal information directly relevant to the position could lead to a withdrawal of any offer for that position. UCHP has a legal obligation not to utilise any individual in a childcare role who has been legally barred from working with children.

All Playworkers will be required to register with the DBS Update Service at a cost of £13 to themselves. The DBS Update Service is a service that allows applicants keep their DBS certificate up to date online; it also allows employers to check a certificate online to ensure there has been no changes to a Playworkers DBS status. This will allow Playworkers to take responsibility for keeping their criminal record certificate up to date and transfer it from role to role. UCHP, with the individuals consent, will carry out online checks prior to each Playworker being offered work on a particular holiday. UCHP will be checking that the criminal records check is up to date, and that no new information has been recorded since the individual has last been checked. If a Playworker has failed to maintain their registration with the DBS (and UCHP cannot ascertain their current status via the update service) the system will highlight that a new DBS check is required, whereby the onus will be on the Playworker to pay for and complete this.

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| Signed by Playscheme Co-ordinator |  |
| Date | 07/01/2020 |
| Review Date | 07/01/2021 |

# Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Policy

**The EYFS replaced the Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage, Birth to Three Matters Framework and the National Standards for Under 8’s Day care and Child-minding (including Out of School Care). The University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme (UCHP) acknowledges that all settings working with children aged from birth to the end of the Reception year (the year in which the child turns five) work alongside the EYFS, and therefore ensure that staff are aware of it.**

## EYFS at UCHP

EYFS children will be identified once they register and book onto Playscheme. At this point the parents of the child will be contacted via email and asked to fill in an ‘All About Me’ form and provide a photo. Playworkers at UCHP will use the information on the ‘All About Me’ as a starting point to assist the child in settling into Playscheme. Prior to the start of Playscheme the Playscheme Assistant will contact the school of EYFS children to gain information about the children to assist the settling in process. This information will be used to support the children once onsite. EYFS children will then be assigned a Key Person and this information will be shared with the parents.

## Role of the Key Person

UCHP recognise that for our youngest children, Playscheme can be a daunting place. Children thrive from secure relationships and as such this is what we aim to provide in the role of the Key Person. A Key Person is a named Playworker with responsibilities for a group of children. The Key Person responds sensitively to children’s feelings and behaviors and supports the emotional needs by giving reassurance. On an EYFS child first day, where possible their Key Person will meet them and give them a tour of the Playscheme site. They will help the child to settle into the Playscheme routine and check they are ok throughout the day.

UCHP will facilitate the play principles, giving children the opportunity to experience a wide variety of play types. UCHP understands the casual nature of attendance at a Playscheme. As such each holiday parents will be encouraged to share in their child’s developments during term time through discussion with the Playscheme and Site Co-ordinators.

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| Signed by Playscheme Co-ordinator |  |
| Date | 07/01/2020 |
| Review Date | 07/01/2021 |

# Equal Opportunities Policy

University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme (UCHP) is committed to taking positive and proactive steps to ensure that we provide a safe and caring environment promoting British Values, free from discrimination, for everyone in our community.

UCHP’s equal opportunities procedures aim to help everyone involved in UCHP to counteract and eliminate both direct and indirect discrimination in decision-making, employment practices and service provision, to ensure that our services strive to achieve equality of opportunity for all. UCHP aims to provide a welcoming and caring environment that promotes and reflects cultural and social diversity and is equally accessible to all. UCHP will endeavour to challenge any offensive behaviour, language or attitudes with regard to any of the “Protected Characteristics” ([Age](http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/equality/characteristics/age/), [Disability](http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/equality/characteristics/disability/), [Gender Reassignment](http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/equality/characteristics/gender/), [Marriage and Civil Partnership](http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/equality/characteristics/marriage/), [Pregnancy and Maternity](http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/equality/characteristics/pregnancy/), [Race](http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/equality/characteristics/race/), [Religion or Belief (including lack of belief)](http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/equality/characteristics/belief/), [Sex](http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/equality/characteristics/sex/) and [Sexual Orientation](http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/equality/characteristics/orientation/)) as outlined by the Equality Act 2010 and associated legislation.

UCHP recognises that achieving the objectives of our equal opportunities policy relies on the active involvement of parents, as set out in the ‘Partnership with Parents’ policy. As such, UCHP will both welcome and encourage parents to become involved in UCHP, and to comment on the effectiveness of its policies and procedures.

## Equal Opportunities Procedures

To create an environment that is welcoming to all and free from discrimination, UCHP will:

* Ensure that its services are open and available to all parents/students of the University of Cambridge and then after priority booking is closed ensure children in the local community have equal access on a first come first served basis.
* Ensure that issues regarding any of the Protected Characteristics do not inhibit a child from appropriately accessing the UCHP’s services
* Treat all children and their parents with equal concern and value.
* Have regard for promoting understanding, respect and awareness of diversity and equal opportunities issues in planning and UCHPs programme of activities.
* Help all children to celebrate and express their cultural and religious identity by providing a wide range of appropriate resources and activities.
* Ensure that UCHP’s recruitment policies and procedures reflect the procedures set out by the University of Cambridge and are open, fair and non-discriminatory.
* Ensure that all members of Playwork staff are aware of, and understand, the Equal Opportunities policy as it relates to all aspects of their work.
* Encourage and support Playworkers to act as positive role models to children by displaying and promoting tolerant and respectful behaviour, language and attitudes and challenging any discriminatory incident, according to the provisions set out in the Staff Disciplinary Procedures, the Behaviour Management and Dealing with Harassment policies.
* Treat seriously any Playworkers found to be acting, or who have been acting, in a discriminatory way, according to the provisions of the Staff Disciplinary Procedures.
* Work to fulfil all the legal requirements of the Equality Act 2010.
* The Playscheme will designate an Equal Opportunities Co-ordinator (ENCO) and ensure appropriate training is undertaken for the role. The ENCO is responsible for ensuring that the Equal Opportunities policy is implemented and that its effectiveness is regularly monitored. They will be responsible for ensuring that:
  + Playworkers receive appropriate training.
  + The Equal Opportunities policy is consistent with current legislation and guidance.
  + Appropriate action is taken wherever discriminatory behaviour, language or attitudes become apparent.

All of UCHP’s policies and procedures will be kept under review to ensure they do not operate in a discriminatory manner or in any way against its commitment to equal opportunities.

# Dealing with Harassment Policy

University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme (UCHP) is committed to promoting fairness towards all Playworkers, students, volunteers, children and parents. We fully and wholeheartedly adhere to both the spirit and detail of the Equality Act 2010 and associated legislation, which outlaw discrimination against anyone on grounds of the protected characteristics: [Age](http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/equality/characteristics/age/), [Disability](http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/equality/characteristics/disability/), [Gender Reassignment](http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/equality/characteristics/gender/), [Marriage and Civil Partnership](http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/equality/characteristics/marriage/), [Pregnancy and Maternity](http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/equality/characteristics/pregnancy/), [Race](http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/equality/characteristics/race/), [Religion or Belief (including lack of belief)](http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/equality/characteristics/belief/), [Sex](http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/equality/characteristics/sex/) and [Sexual Orientation](http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/equality/characteristics/orientation/)

## Preventing Harassment and Discrimination

#### Proactive steps can be taken to prevent harassment and discrimination, and UCHP believes that this is more effective than tackling a situation once it has already occurred. Therefore, alongside the procedures outlined later in this policy to deal with incidents of harassment and discrimination including perceptive or associated discrimination, UCHP will:

* Ensure that all children are valued, irrespective of Protected Characteristics.
* Encourage individuals to treat each other with respect, regardless of Protected Characteristics.
* Acknowledge the existence of discriminatory harassment in society and take steps to promote harmonious relations in our community.
* Promote good relations within UCHP and in the wider community.
* Ensure that different needs are met, understood and communicated to all individuals involved in UCHP.

## Examples of Harassment and Discrimination

Harassment and discrimination can manifest itself in a variety of ways, some overt and others much less so. Some examples of unacceptable behaviour include:

* The use of patronising words or actions towards an individual or group– including for example name-calling, racial or homophobic jokes and insults.
* Threats made against a person or group of people because of any protected characteristic.
* Written abuse or the distribution of insulting or offensive literature.
* Physical assault or abuse against a person or group of people because of a Protected Characteristic.

## Addressing Harassment and Discrimination

If a Playworker or a child becomes aware of an incident of harassment or discrimination occurring at UCHP, they will be encouraged to report the incident to the Playscheme Co-ordinator/Site Co-ordinator.

Any allegation made against a Playworker or a child will be investigated thoroughly and reported to Cambridgeshire Early Years’ Service on a Prejudice-related incident report form. Where appropriate, the individuals concerned will be involved in discussion about why such behaviour cannot be tolerated. UCHP will make every effort to support all those involved in the incident and find ways to increase understanding.

Each incident will be fully investigated and details will be recorded. In the case of children, incidents will be reported to their parents and a course of action agreed upon to resolve the situation, in accordance with the provisions of the ‘Behaviour Management’ policy. However, if a solution cannot be found and the child continues to be abusive, then UCHP may have to inform the child – and their parent – that they are no longer able to attend sessions at UCHP, in accordance with the ‘Behaviour Management’ policy.

In the case of Playworkers, provisions within the Staff Disciplinary Procedures policy will be activated and a record of the incident will be kept and made available to statutory authorities as appropriate.

The Playscheme Co-ordinator is responsible for ensuring that all incidents are handled both professionally and sensitively. All incidents will be kept confidential within UCHP. In cases where the Playscheme Co-ordinator is involved in an allegation, the Manager of Childcare Services will handle the process regarding the incident.

In all cases, continued harassment or discrimination by any individual will result in exclusion from UCHP, where all other efforts have failed to provide a satisfactorily resolution.

## The University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme as an Employer

As an employer, UCHP is committed to ensuring that the workforce reflects the multicultural community that it serves. To this end, UCHP will:

* When the need for advertising arises, UCHP will advertise job vacancies in a variety of media sources and outlets and in a variety of places.
* Ensure that UCHP’s Human Resource procedures prohibit discrimination and harassment, and investigate any concerns when this is suspected of failing.
* Investigate any allegation of discrimination or harassment according to the provisions of the Staff Disciplinary Procedures and ‘Behaviour Management’ policies.
* Collect and monitor information about the ethnic background of the Playwork team and children.

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| Signed by Playscheme Co-ordinator |  |
| Date | 07/01/2020 |
| Review Date | 07/01/2021 |

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# Children with Special or Additional Needs Policy

UCHP is aware that some children have additional needs and/or physical disabilities that require particular support and assistance. We are committed to taking appropriate action to make sure that children are able to access our services, made to feel welcome, and that our activities promote their welfare and development.

UCHP is committed to the inclusion of all children in its care. UCHP believes that children with Special and/or additional needs (SEN) have a right to play, learn, and be able to develop to their full potential alongside other children. Whenever possible, children with Special and/or additional needs will have access to the same facilities, activities and play opportunities as their peers. This may require the assistance of a 1:1 Playworker[[1]](#footnote-1) to support a child in accessing the setting.

Everybody stands to gain if all children are able to share the same opportunities and are helped to overcome any disadvantages that they may face.

The policies, procedures and practices of UCHP in relation to children with Special or Additional needs are consistent with current legislation and guidance.

UCHP believes that by identifying individual needs and taking proactive steps alongside parents and other professionals/agencies, most children should be able to play a full, active, and equal part in UCHP’s activities.

However, UCHP also understand that a Playscheme setting can be a very busy environment and as such we may not be able to cater for the needs of all children. Upon finding out a child has a special need, UCHP will invite the parent in for a discussion about their child’s needs and will take further information such as a EHCP and/or professional reports in order to gather as much information about the child’s needs as possible. UCHP will also want to contact the school the child attends and other professionals involved in their care. If, after receiving such information, UCHP are unclear whether they will be able to meet the needs of the child within the setting, an invite will be given to the parent and their child to attend a taster session. This session will allow UCHP to get to know the child and observe how they respond to our setting. If the session goes well, UCHP will make an application to the START Team for CAF funding. This funding stream supports the payment of a 1:1 worker. Once the funding is in place and UCHP has recruited a 1:1 worker the parents may book their child onto the Playscheme. However, if after the taster session and advice sought from other professionals involved in the care of the child it is deemed that UCHP cannot meet the child’s care needs, then UCHP have the right to refuse a space.

Some children with special needs will be able to attend Playscheme without the need of a 1:1 worker. During the care of a child with special needs or additional needs, UCHP will continue to evaluate the care and play opportunities we provide for that child. If, after having taken proactive steps to integrate the child into Playscheme it is deemed that they would benefit from the support of a 1:1 worker, this will be discussed with the parent. An application would be made to apply for CAF funding and UCHP would endeavour to provide a 1:1 worker. If at any point UCHP felt they could not meet the child’s needs advice would be sought from other childcare professionals. If UCHP decides that it is unable to reasonably make the adjustments necessary to meet a child’s needs, then UCHP have the right to refuse a space for that child in future holidays. UCHP will not be able accommodate an onsite booking for a child that has special needs. This is because time needs to be given to ensure UCHP can meet the child’s needs.

## The Use of Physical Interventions

Physical intervention may be recognised as part of an individual’s ‘Care Plan’ and if this is the case, training will be sought.

Playworkers will use physical interventions only as a last resort and only then if they have reasonable grounds for believing that immediate action is necessary to prevent a child from significantly injuring themselves or others, or to prevent serious damage to property.

Before reaching this stage, Playworkers will have used all possible non-physical actions, such as dialogue and diversion, to deal with the behaviour. The child or children concerned will be warned verbally that physical intervention will be used if they do not stop.

A dialogue will be maintained with the child or children at all times, so that the Playworker can explain what they are doing and why they are doing it. Playworkers will avoid the use of physical interventions if they are alone with the child or children. Only the minimum force necessary to prevent injury or damage will be applied, for example, diverting a child by leading them away by a hand or an arm around their shoulders.

Playworkers will use physical intervention as an act of care and control and never punishment. Physical interventions will not be used purely to force a child to do what they have been told, or when there is no immediate risk to people or property.

As soon as it is safe, the physical intervention should be gradually relaxed to allow the child or children to regain self-control.

The force of the physical intervention will be always appropriate to the age, size and strength of the child or children involved.

If Playworkers are not confident about their ability to contain a particular situation or type of behaviour, the Site Co-ordinator will be called to assist first, and then the Playscheme Co-ordinator or, in extreme cases, the police.

Where a Playworker has had to intervene physically to restrain a child, the Playscheme Co-ordinator will be notified and the incident logged. The incident will be discussed with the parents at the earliest possible opportunity.

If a Playworker commits any act of violence or abuse towards a child, parent or other member of the Playscheme team at UCHP, the UCHP Playworker Disciplinary Procedures and Safeguarding Policy will be followed.

## SENCo (Special Educational Needs Coordinator)

UCHP will designate a SENCo, who will manage provisions for children with special educational needs and/or physical disabilities. The SENCo will be fully trained and experienced in the care and assessment of such children. Advice and guidance will be sought from the Early Years Advisors.

Playworkers will assist the SENCo in caring for children with additional needs and/or physical disabilities. The SENCo ensures that:

* Playworkers are aware of legislation, regulations and other guidance on working with children with additional needs and/or physical disabilities.
* Playworkers who work with children with Special Needs and/or additional needs have basic training.
* Monitoring and reviews of children’s progress is regular; involving parents, the Playscheme team, relevant representatives from statutory agencies and, if appropriate, the child themselves.
* Each child’s specific needs are assessed and UCHP’s facilities, procedures, practices and activities are adapted as appropriate.
* Children with Special Needs and/or additional needs are fully considered when planning activities.
* Liaison with parents about the needs of their children and the plans and actions of UCHP take place, as well as being the point of contact for parents.
* Liaison with other agencies takes place and seeking advice, support and training is sought for themselves and other Playworkers as necessary.
* Playworkers are supported to become more skilled and experienced in the care of children with Special Needs and/or additional needs.
* All children are treated with equal concern and respect and are encouraged to take part in all activities.
* Accurate observations of how the child or young person uses the play space are used to reflect on practice and improve access for all.
* The child or young person is fully consulted and independence is encouraged when possible. Consideration will always be given to the dignity and choice of the individual and where necessary Playworkers will seek strategies to enable good communication at all times.

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# Fire Safety and Fire Risk Assessment Policy

**COVID-19 AMENDMENT**

UCHP has a commitment to preserve life. Whilst we are operating in a slightly different manner due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the fire procedure will be slightly different. In the event of a fire, the children will exit the building using the nearest fire escape, staying in their groups. The Playworkers will escort the children to the fire assembly point. Each group will, as far as practically possible, maintain a safe distance from another group during a fire practice. However, in the event of a real fire, social distancing rules will be given lower priority, with the highest priority given to ensure children have exited the building safely and are all accounted for.

**University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme (UCHP) complies with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.The fire risk assessment will be based on The Department of Communities and Local Government 6 step guide:**

1. Identify potential fire hazards.
2. Decide who, in the event of a fire, might be in danger in the workplace or while trying to escape from it, and note their location.
3. Evaluate the risks arising from the hazards and decide whether existing fire precautions are adequate or whether more should be done to get rid of the hazard or to control the risks, e.g. by improving the fire precautions.
4. Record the findings and details of the action taken as a result and tell employees about the findings
5. Keep the assessment under review and revise it when necessary (at least once a year).
6. Nominating staff to check particular areas are clear (if safe to do so in the event of a real fire) and all children evacuated safely.

## The Playscheme Co-ordinator will be responsible for:

* Recording and sharing with colleagues: fire risk assessments, fire drills, incidents and actions identified.
* Ensuring all staff have access to training opportunities on fire procedures and firefighting equipment.
* Carrying out regular fire drills to allow all children and adults to experience the evacuation process. Fire drills will be recorded and evaluated and different exit routes will be practiced.
* Contacting their local Fire and Rescue Service or the Health and Safety Department at the University of Cambridge for further advice and guidance.

## General Fire prevention precautions:

* Ensuring that power points are not overloaded with adaptors
* Equipment will be properly maintained and inspected in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. All electrical toys and equipment are subject to PAT (Portable Appliance Testing) annually
* Ensuring that the UCHP ‘Smoking, Alcohol and Drugs Policy’ is observed
* Checking for frayed or trailing wires
* Checking that fuses are replaced safely
* Unplugging equipment before leaving the premises
* Storing any potentially flammable materials safely
* Fire drills take place once a week

Staff are made aware of the location of fire exits, the fire assembly point and where fire safety equipment is stored. Where possible, staff will be trained to use basic firefighting equipment such as extinguishers and fire blankets. In the event of a small fire, the priority is to raise the alarm and evacuate the building. Staff will only attempt to extinguish it if they or others are in no imminent danger. Children will be made aware of the fire safety procedures during their settling in period and on regular occasions from then on. Children will be made aware of the location of fire exits and fire assembly point. Fire doors and fire exits are clearly marked and never locked, are not obstructed at any times, and are easily opened from the inside. Fire extinguishers and fire alarm systems are regularly tested in accordance with manufacturer's guidance. The assembly point will be risk assessed and moved when appropriate.

## In the event of a fire

A member of staff will raise the alarm immediately and the emergency services will be called.

Children will be escorted out of the building and to the assembly point using the nearest safe fire exit. No attempt will be made to collect personal belongings, or to re-enter the building after evacuation.

A Site Co-ordinator will check the entire premises and the register and registration forms will be collected, providing that this does not put anyone at risk. On exiting the building, a Site Co-ordinator will close all accessible doors and windows to prevent the spread of fire. The register will be taken and all children and staff accounted for. If any person is missing from the register, the emergency services will be informed.

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# Health and Safety Policy

**The University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme (UCHP) takes the maintenance of Health and Safety extremely seriously as a matter of both legal and moral importance. The Playscheme Co-ordinator and Playworkers will always strive to go beyond the minimum statutory standards to ensure that health and safety remains the first priority.**

**COVID-19 AMENDMENT**

The health and safety of UCHP will be given the highest priority during the COVID-19 pandemic. For the most part this policy remains relevant. However, additional measures will be put into place to ensure the safety of all that use UCHP.

Essential Health and Safety measures UCHP are undertaking include:

1. a requirement that people who are ill stay at home
2. robust hand and respiratory hygiene
3. enhanced cleaning arrangements
4. active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
5. consideration of how to reduce contacts between the groups and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable

Please refer to the Playscheme COVID-19 policy

The University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme aims to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all Playworkers, children, visitors and other individuals. The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 and their associated Approved Code of Practice (ACoP) and guidance will be complied with at all times.

It is vital to ensure that all Playworkers and other persons who are affected by UCHP’s activities take health and safety matters seriously. Playworkers who have been found to have blatantly disregarded safety instructions or recognised safe practices will be subject to the procedures laid out in the Staff Disciplinary Procedures.

Site Co-ordinators are responsible for ensuring that the provisions of the Health and Safety policy are adhered to at all times. As such, they are required to:

* Take reasonable care for their own health and safety as well as of other persons who may be affected by their acts or omissions at work.
* Report any accidents, incidents or dangerous occurrences that have led to, or may in the future be likely to lead to, injury or damage, and assist in the investigation of any such events.
* Undergo relevant Health and Safety training when instructed to do so by the Playscheme Co-ordinator.
* Maintain an environment that is safe and without risk to health.

The Playscheme Co-ordinator holds ultimate responsibility for ensuring that UCHP operates in a safe and hazard free manner. The Playscheme Co-ordinator will ensure that adequate arrangements exist by arranging the following:

* UCHP identifies the Playscheme Co-ordinator as the designated trained Health and Safety Officer who is guided and supported by the Health and Safety Division at the University of Cambridge.
* Ensuring that Playworkers both understand and accept their responsibilities in relation to health and safety procedures.
* Encouraging Playworkers to undertake health and safety training.
* Monitoring the effectiveness of the Health and Safety policy and authorising any necessary revisions to its provisions.
* Providing adequate resources necessary to meet UCHP’s Health and Safety responsibilities.
* Ensuring that all accidents, incidents and dangerous occurrences are adequately reported and recorded (including informing the Health and Safety Executive - The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR), University of Cambridge Health and Safety Division and Ofsted, where appropriate.
* Reviewing all reported accidents, incidents and dangerous occurrences, and UCHP’s response, to enable corrective measures to be implemented.
* Information received on health and safety matters is made available to all Playworkers.

## Health and Safety Inspections and Risk Assessment

The identification, assessment and control of hazards within UCHP are vital in reducing accidents and incidents. For further information refer to the risk assessment policy.

Daily safety checks are carried out, to ensure that the facilities are maintained in a suitable state of repair and decoration, Playworkers will be vigilant of this constantly. Annual inspections may also be carried out by the University of Cambridge Health and Safety Office.

Any action required as a result of a Health and Safety inspection is taken as rapidly as possible.

An investigation is carried out on all accidents, incidents and dangerous occurrences.

## Safety Policy

UCHP uses premises that are safe, secure and adequately spacious for play and for children to interact freely (a minimum of 2.3 square metres’ space per child under 8 years of age).

Playworkers and any other authorised persons who are regular visitors to UCHP will be issued with either an identity badge or clearly identifiable clothing, which they are expected to wear at all times while on UCHP premises.

UCHP premises are clean, well lit, adequately ventilated and maintained at an appropriate temperature.

UCHP will strive to use premises that comply with all the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and all other relevant regulations and guidance.

There is adequate space for storing UCHP equipment safely and securely when onsite so that Playworkers and children are protected when accessing toys and equipment.

Under normal circumstances, Playworkers will ensure that there is one toilet and one washbasin with hand soap and hot and cold water available for every 10 children

The toilets at some of our sites are unisex and to ensure the safety of the children whilst toileting Site Co-ordinators and Playworkers regularly monitor these areas. UCHP uses Children’s meeting to discuss appropriate and non-appropriate play spaces i.e. the toilets are inappropriate play spaces and sensitive safeguarding issues such as the NSPCC PANTS campaign. If it is brought to a Playworker’s attention that a child feels very uncomfortable toileting with other children then this must be brought to the attention of the Site Co-ordinator so that other arrangements can be made. No child will be left unsupervised in the kitchen area.

Playworkers will have access to a work telephone at UCHP; however they will only be able to use their own telephone in break periods in a designated space away from the children.

In the event of snow or ice on pathways onsite, Playworkers will ensure that this is regularly cleared and kept safe.

All chemicals will be stored in an appropriate way that is inaccessible to children. COSHH regulations will also be regarded.

## Supervision

Children are supervised appropriately according to the level of risk involved during play and activities. The ages and number of children involved in a given activity is also taken into account. Playworkers are deployed adequately to ensure general supervision at all times.

## Site Security

Parents are encouraged to talk to their children about the importance of remaining safe and not leaving the UCHP premises during the session. Site Co-ordinators will reinforce this at Children’s meeting through discussion about why it is important. All Playworkers will observe and supervise the entrance and exit points when the Playscheme is in operation.

Visitors will be greeted on arrival and will be asked to sign the visitor’s sheet and state the purpose of their visit. Visitors will not be left unsupervised with children at UCHP at any time. If an unexpected visitor has no suitable reason to be at UCHP, then they will be asked to leave immediately and escorted from the premises. If the visitor repeatedly refuses to leave, the police will be contacted. A record will be made of any such incidents on an Incident Form, and the Playscheme Co-ordinator will be notified.

The Playscheme Co-ordinator (in consultation with Playworkers and parents) will regularly review security procedures.

## Equipment

All furniture, toys and equipment are kept clean, well maintained and in good repair and in accordance with BS EN safety standards or the Toys (Safety) Regulations (1995) where applicable.

Equipment will be properly maintained and inspected in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions. All electrical toys and equipment are subject to PAT (Portable Appliance Testing).

Defective or broken equipment will be taken out of use and stored in a safe place before being disposed of. Flammable equipment will be stored in a safe location away from sources of heat and/or naked flames.

## Animals

No animal will be allowed on the premises without the prior knowledge (with the exception of disability assistance dogs) and permission of the Playscheme Co-ordinator. A visit from an animal must be prearranged and accompanied by a responsible handler.

## Closing the University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme at short notice/in an emergency

In very exceptional circumstances, UCHP may need to be closed at very short notice due to an unexpected event. Such incidents could include:

* Serious weather conditions
* Burst water pipes/heating system failure
* Discovery of dangerous structural damage
* Fire or bomb scare/explosion
* Death of a Playworker or child
* Serious assault on a Playworker or child
* Serious accident or illness
* Chemical contamination.

In such circumstances, the Playscheme Co-ordinator and Playworkers will ensure that all steps are taken to keep both the children and themselves safe. All Playworkers and children will assemble at the pre-arranged venue, where a register will be taken.

Steps will then be taken to inform parents and the Manager of Childcare Services and to take the necessary actions in relation to the cause of the closure. All children will be supervised until they are safely collected.

If after every attempt, parents cannot be contacted, the Playscheme will follow its ‘Uncollected Child’ procedure.

A child will never be left alone on the Playscheme premises.

If the registration is affected it is necessary to inform Ofsted of a closure.

## Health

Playworkers will make sure there is a regular supply of drinking water available to children, especially in hot conditions.

## Sun Protection

The Playscheme Co-ordinator and Playworkers understand the dangers posed to children and themselves by over exposure to the sun.

Parents are encouraged to provide sun cream for their children, however, sun cream is also provided by the Playscheme and Playworkers will encourage children to use this. Children will be encouraged to apply the sun cream independently, however if assistance is needed then it will be given by a Playworker.

When deemed necessary, Playworkers may apply sun cream to children who cannot do so for themselves.

Children will also be encouraged to wear a hat when playing outside in the sun and to take shade.

Playworkers will encourage children to drink water frequently in hot weather.

## Trips and Outings

Additional safety measures will be implemented for trips and outings, please see our policy ‘Trips, Outings and Visitors’ for more details

## Hygiene

The Playscheme Co-ordinator and all Playworkers will be vigilant to any potential threats to good hygiene at UCHP. To this end, a generally clean environment will be maintained at all times.

Toilets are checked regularly and cleaned daily there is a supply of soap and hand drying facilities for both Playworkers and children.

A First Aider will be mindful of the need to observe the highest standards of personal hygiene when administering any treatment to children.

**As such, First Aiders will wash their hands thoroughly both before and after giving first aid, and ensure that plasters or disposable gloves cover any cuts, wounds or skin damage.**

## Kitchen Hygiene

All areas where food and drink are stored, prepared and eaten are prone to the spread of infections. Playworkers must be particularly careful to observe high standards of hygiene in such instances. To this end the following steps will be taken:

* Playworkers trained in food hygiene will oversee snack preparation; Playworkers not trained in food hygiene may assist.
* Waste will be disposed of safely .
* Food storage facilities and equipment will be regularly and thoroughly cleaned after every use.
* If cooking is done as an activity, all surfaces and equipment involved will be thoroughly cleaned before and after the session.
* Additionally, Playworkers will be aware of the provisions set out in the ‘Cooking and Food Policy’ when handling, preparing, cooking and serving food or drink at UCHP.

## Personal Hygiene

In all circumstances, Playworkers will adhere to and ensure that children carry out the same routines.

* Washing hands before and after handling food or drink.
* Washing hands after using the toilet.
* Covering cuts and abrasions while at the premises.
* Taking any other steps that are likely to minimise the spread of infections.
* Washing of hands prior to and following first aid.

## Dealing with Spillages Bodily Waste and Fluids

The quantity of clinical waste disposed of by CUHP is below the minimum required amount as stated by the Government of 1 bag (2kg) per week therefore any clinical waste will be disposed of as detailed below.

Spillages of substances likely to result in the spread of infections will be dealt with rapidly and carefully. Blood, vomit, urine and faeces will be cleaned up immediately and disposed of safely and hygienically by double bagging and taken out of the setting. Playworkers will wear disposable plastic gloves and an apron while using bleach or disinfectant solution, and wash themselves thoroughly afterwards. Children will be kept well clear while such substances are being dealt with.

UCHP is committed to taking all practicable steps to prevent and control the spread of infectious germs, and to uphold high standards of personal hygiene in order to minimise the risk of catching or spreading infections.

## Insurance

The Children Act 1989 and the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, place a number of legal responsibilities on UCHP. Therefore UCHP has insurance cover appropriate to its duties under this legislation, including Employer’s Liability Insurance. Responsibility will, in most cases, rest with UCHP, but Playworkers will take reasonable care, both for themselves and other people who may be affected by their acts or omissions at work. If UCHP is held responsible for any incident that may occur, public liability insurance will cover compensation.

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# Healthy Eating Policy

University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme (UCHP) is committed to providing healthy, nutritious and tasty food and drink for children during our sessions. Playscheme will make every effort to ensure that food and drink is safely prepared and sensitive to the dietary needs and religious/cultural preferences of the children.

**COVID AMENDMENT**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, UCHP have decided not to provide snacks for the children, asking parents to provide this for their child. This decision will be reviewed after the October 2020 Playscheme. Fresh water and squash will be available in each of the rooms to ensure children are well hydrated.

The University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme (UCHP) follows the ‘Safer Food, Better Business’ document issued by the Food Standards Agency. The Food Information Regulation has introduced a requirement that food businesses must provide information about the allergenic ingredients used in the food we provide. UCHP conforms to this legislation and information can be found on the parent noticeboard.

When preparing food and drink, Playworkers have regard for the provisions of the Health and Safety policy.

Wherever possible, Playworkers undertake Food Hygiene training, and are appropriately inducted in food storage, preparation, as well as cooking food safety.

Parents are required to complete a registration form, including information about any special dietary requirements or allergies the child suffers from, along with their food and drink preferences. If there is a severe allergy, UCHP may ask the parent to provide medical documentation from a qualified and medically trained professional supported by the child’s GP to ensure UCHP are able to minimise the risk as far as reasonably possible to protect the child/ren in their care. Any child that requires medication which is specific to their allergies e.g. Epi Pen or Piriton will need to ensure the medication has a prescription label which details the date it was issued and has the child’s name on it as per our Administering Medication Policy.

## Healthy Eating

The Playworkers at UCHP will make every effort to promote healthy eating and will lead by example when providing daily snacks.

* UCHP gives reference to the School’s Food Trust Guidance when preparing food and planning menus.
* Playworkers will discuss with children the importance of a balanced diet where appropriate
* Children will, wherever possible, be involved in the planning of menus.
* UCHP will ensure that snack time incorporates plenty of fruit, low-fat and low-sugar foods.
* Snacks provided are suitable for vegetarians. Other snack options are available for those children with special dietary requirements.
* UCHP will not regularly provide sweets for children.
* Excessive amounts of fatty or sugary foods will be avoided
* UCHP will provide a choice of healthy drinks.
* Fresh drinking water will be available.
* Particular dietary requirements will be met by embracing medical, cultural and religious needs.
* Children are introduced to religious and cultural festivals and events through different foods and drink.
* Children will eat food in a smoke free environment at all times.

## Packed Lunches

* Healthy packed lunches are encouraged – information is available to parents upon request.
* UCHP is not able to provide refrigeration-for or heating-of foods provided for children’s packed lunches.
* Due to the non-contact nature of nut allergies, UCHP is a nut-free setting and insists that for the well-being of individuals in our care nuts are not included in packed lunches.
* UCHP may challenge any perceived inadequacy or inappropriateness of packed provided for children.

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# Intimate Care Policy

**COVID-19 AMENDMENT**

Where possible, a child will be encouraged to help themselves with intimate care needs. If this is not possible, Playworkers supporting intimate care needs will be required to wear PPE equipment, such as face mask, aprons and gloves. PPE equipment must be disposed of carefully. Please refer to Playscheme COVID-19 Policy.

Cambridge Universities Holiday Playscheme (UCHP) works with young children who may have intimate care needs. As such our Playworkers will be sensitive and respectful of children’s needs and dignity.

Intimate care can be defined as care tasks of an intimate nature, associated with bodily functions, body products and personal hygiene which demand direct or indirect contact with or exposure of the genitals. Examples include care associated with continence and menstrual management as well as more ordinary tasks such as help with washing or bathing.

Children’s dignity will be preserved and a high level of privacy, choice and control will be provided to them. Playworkers who provide intimate care to children have a high awareness of Safeguarding children issues. Playworkers behaviour is open to scrutiny and Playworkers at UCHP work in partnership with parents to provide continuity of care to children/young people wherever possible.

UCHP is committed to ensuring that all Playworkers responsible for the intimate care of children will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times. UCHP recognises that Playworkers must treat all children with respect when intimate care is given. No child should be attended to in a way that causes distress or pain.

## UCHP Approach to Best Practice.

All children who require intimate care are treated respectfully at all times; the child’s welfare and dignity is of paramount importance.

Where necessary: Playworkers will be trained in providing intimate care, Playworkers will have regard for Safeguarding children. Apparatus will be provided to assist with children who need special arrangements following assessment from physiotherapist/occupational therapist as required.

Playworkers will be supported to adapt their practise in relation to the needs of individual children taking into account developmental changes such as the onset of puberty and menstruation.

There is careful communication with each child who needs help with intimate care in line with their preferred means of communication (verbal, symbolic, etc.) to discuss the child’s needs and preferences. The child is aware of each procedure that is carried out and the reasons for it.

As a basic principle children will be supported to achieve the highest level of autonomy that is possible given their age and abilities. Playworkers will encourage each child to do as much for themselves as they can. This may mean, for example, giving the child responsibility for washing themselves. A risk assessment can address issues such as moving and handling, personal safety of the child and the Playworker.

Each child’s right to privacy will be respected. Careful consideration will be given to each child’s situation to determine how many Playworkers might need to be present when a child needs help with intimate care, however a minimum of two will be present to ensure both the child and Playworkers are safeguarded.

Wherever possible the same child will not be cared for by the same adult on a regular basis; there will be a rota of Playworkers known to the child, and the child can choose who will provide the care. This will ensure, as far as possible, that over-familiar relationships are discouraged from developing, while at the same time guarding against the care being carried out by a succession of completely different Playworkers. A record of any intimate care given will be documented and the parent asked to sign it to acknowledge inmate care has been given.

Parents will be involved with their child’s intimate care arrangements on a regular basis; a clear account of the agreed arrangements will be recorded on the child’s care plan. The needs and wishes of children and parents will be carefully considered alongside any possible constraints.

Each child/young person can rely upon Playscheme as an advocate to whom they will be able to communicate any issues or concerns that they may have about the quality of care they receive.

## The Protection of Children

The Local Children’s Safeguarding Board - ‘Recognising the Signs of Child Abuse’ and the DFES ‘What to Do If You Think a Child Is Being Abused’ booklets will be accessible to Playworkers and adhered to.

Where appropriate, all children will be taught personal safety skills carefully matched to their level of development and understanding.

If a Playworker has any concerns about physical changes in a child’s presentation, e.g. marks, bruises, soreness etc. they should report concerns to the Playscheme Co-ordinator and the children’s ‘Safeguarding Policy’ will be followed.

If a child becomes distressed or unhappy about being cared for by a particular Playworker, the matter will be looked into and outcomes recorded. Parents will be contacted at the earliest opportunity as part of this process in order to reach a resolution. Playworker schedules will be altered until the issue(s) are resolved so that the child’s needs remain paramount. Further advice will be taken from outside agencies if necessary.

If a child makes an allegation against a Playworker, all necessary procedures will be followed, including following ‘ allegation against a member of Staff’ which will include contacting LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer for Managing Allegations Against Those Working With Children) contact 01223 727967.

## Dealing with Spillages Bodily Waste and Fluids

The quantity of clinical waste disposed of by UCHP is below the minimum required amount of one bag per week (2kg) therefore any clinical waste will be disposed of as detailed below.

Spillages of substances likely to result in the spread of infections will be dealt with rapidly and carefully. Blood, vomit, urine and faeces will be cleaned up immediately and disposed of safely and hygienically by double bagging and taken out of the setting. Playworkers will wear disposable plastic gloves and an apron while using bleach or disinfectant solution, and wash themselves thoroughly afterwards. Children will be kept well clear while such substances are being dealt with.

UCHP is committed to taking all practicable steps to prevent and control the spread of infectious germs, and to uphold high standards of personal hygiene in order to minimise the risk of catching or spreading infections.

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# Involving and Consulting Children Policy

**COVID-19 AMENDMENT**

UCHP remains committed to giving children a voice and involving and consulting them in decisions which are made that affect them. We understand that during the COVID-19 pandemic, Playscheme has had to change the way in which it operates. During this time, UCHP will continue to consult with children to find out their thoughts and feelings about Playscheme and how we can ensure they feel engaged and happy during their time with us.

The University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme (UCHP) is committed to the principle of involving and consulting children whenever decisions are made within UCHP that affect them.

UCHP’s commitment to involving and consulting children stems from the ‘listening to children’ provisions set out in Articles 12 and 13 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. These state that:

“A child’s opinion should be taken into account in anything that affects them. Children should have information disseminated in a way that enables them to make choices and decisions.”

**Participation is a right**

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states that any child or young person has a right to express their views and have them given due weight in decisions affecting them, in accordance with their age and maturity. Participation is not a privilege and it does not have to be earned; rather, it values children and young people as citizens in their own right. For children, involvement and consultation helps them to develop new skills such as negotiating, sharing and understanding the perspectives of others. It helps them to understand how decisions are made, and recognises that their opinions are important.

There are multiple benefits of such an approach including a relationship with children based on partnership, a more cohesive environment and activities and decisions that children feel a sense of ownership over, that leads to an improved overall higher standard of behaviour. All children that attend UCHP will be listened to and consulted actively. This will take a number of forms, including:

* Listening to what they say in speech and other forms of communication
* Observing body language and behaviour
* Drama and role-play
* Through play and creative expression and the use of visual aids
* Via regular group based discussions and Q & A sessions
* Questionnaires and other regular feedback on activities
* Notice boards that display important information about activities at UCHP
* Regular children’s meetings, between children and staff, discussing UCHP’s activities and any other relevant topics.

Age, maturity and the type of decision being made will determine the extent and nature of children’s involvement. However, the emphasis should always be strongly in favour of involving children. UCHP ensures that children have the opportunity to make decisions and/or participate in the following areas:

* Choosing the type of snacks available
* Being involved with the preparation of snack
* Involved with choosing new toys/ equipment/resources
* Choosing to play inside / outside when they want to
* Contribute to the planning of trips and excursions
* Involved with developing boundaries
* Assisting with designing publicity posters

Consultation and involvement will be regularly monitored and acted upon so that children are able to see that their input has led to visible outcomes. UCHP will also be clear about what decisions children will be involved in an attempt to offer clear explanations if and when consultation and involvement is deemed inappropriate.

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# Lockdown Policy

**COVID-19 AMENDMENT**

UCHP has a commitment to preserve life. Whilst we are operating in a slightly different manner due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the lockdown procedure will be slightly different. In the event of a partial lockdown, the children will remain in their rooms and stay in their groups. If a full lockdown is required, the Playworkers will escort the children to the lockdown room. Each group will, as far as practically possible, maintain a safe distance from another group during a lockdown practice. However, in the event of a real lockdown, social distancing rules will be given lower priority, with the highest priority given to ensure children and are all accounted for and safe from imminent danger.

UCHP view a Lockdown procedure as a sensible and proportionate response to any external or internal incident which has the potential to pose a threat to the safety of children and adults at Playscheme. It is the aim of UCHP to minimise disruption to the environment whilst also ensuring the children and Playworkers are safe.

Lockdown procedures may be activated in response to any number of situations, but some of the more typical might be

* A reported incident or disturbance in the local community (with the potential to pose a risk to anyone in the setting).
* An intruder onsite (with the potential to pose a risk to anyone in the setting).
* A warning being received regarding an environmental risk locally such as air pollution (smoke plume or gas cloud etc)
* The close proximity of a dangerous animal

UCHP’s lockdown procedure is familiar to all Playworkers and children. It is discussed at the children’s meeting and the Playworker group supervision. It is also practiced regularly each holiday and recorded. It is hoped that through regular practice of lockdown procedures, children are so well practiced that it reduces anxiety if it should become a real emergency.

There are two types of lockdown:

## Partial Lockdown

A partial lockdown is a precaution aimed to keep children and Playworkers safe whilst remaining indoors. This may be because of a reported incident/civil disturbance in the local community with the potential to pose a risk to the children and Playworkers in the setting.

In a partial lockdown Playworkers and children should remain in the building and all doors leading outside should be locked. No one should be able to enter or leave the building; however, the setting can continue as normal.

During a partial lockdown:

1. The lockdown bell will be sounded.
2. Outside and inside activity to cease immediately.
3. Children and Playworkers must return to the building and move directly to the designated ‘lockdown area’.
4. All external doors and windows are locked.
5. Registration and headcount is completed to ensure everyone is present and safe.
6. A search will commence to find any children unaccounted for. Playworkers searching for lost children must take a trip phone/walkie talkie to ensure they can be contactable.
7. Site Co-ordinators to inform the Playscheme Co-ordinator and Site Management Team that there is a partial lockdown of the site.
8. Once everyone is accounted for and it is safe, free movement may be permitted within the building dependant on circumstances.
9. In the event of an air pollution or chemical, biological or radiological contaminants issue, air vents, fans, heating and air conditioning systems should be closed or turned off. This is done by contacting the venue’s site team.
10. Seal up all the cracks around the doors and any vents into the room aiming to minimise any possible access points of pollutants.
11. Site Co-ordinators will inform Playworkers and children when it is safe to come out of lockdown.

## Full Lockdown

This signifies an immediate threat to the setting and may be an escalation of a partial lockdown. The aim of a full lockdown is for the setting and its rooms to appear empty.

Immediate action:

1. The lockdown bell will be sounded.
2. All children and Playworkers should return/stay in the building.
3. External doors should be locked.
4. Site Co-ordinators to ensure the site laptop is taken into the lockdown room.
5. Internal doors where possible should be locked.
6. Lock any windows, draw blinds, and cover internal door windows so an intruder cannot see in.
7. Playworkers and children to sit quietly out of sight and where possible in a location that would protect them from harm such as gunfire.
8. Turn off lights, computers.
9. Turn mobile phones on silent so as not to give away your position.
10. Registration and headcount is completed to ensure everyone is present and safe.
11. A search will commence to find any children unaccounted for. Playworkers searching for lost children must take a trip phone/walkie talkie to ensure they can be contactable.
12. Site Co-ordinators to call the police and inform them of the situation and if there are any persons not accounted for.
13. Site Co-ordinators to inform the Playscheme Co-ordinator and Site Management Team that there is a lockdown of the site.
14. Playworkers will endeavour to keep the children and themselves calm.
15. Children should not be released to parents during a lockdown and Playworkers should not leave the premises unless instructed to do so.
16. Site Co-ordinators will inform Playworkers and children when it is safe to come out of lockdown and this will be decided on a case by case basis.

Site Co-ordinators will ensure that points 3-12 are happening simultaneously by giving clear instructions to the Playworkers present on which job they must complete.

Parents will be notified that UCHP is in lockdown as soon as it is practical to do so. This will be completed either via telephone or email communication dependant on the circumstances. If all the Senior Playscheme team are on site communication with parents will be completed via telephone. UCHP may use the Childcare Office staff to support them in communicating with parents via email and telephone. If communication is via email it will highlight to parents that they must not contact the setting during lockdown as this could block telephone lines that are needed for contacting emergency services. Nor should parents come to the setting during lockdown as this may put others and themselves in danger. UCHP will notify parents when it is safe for them to come and collect their child/ren.

After a lockdown has taken place an email will be sent to the parents as soon as possible informing them of the context of lockdown. UCHP senior management team will create a full record of the event. A review of any policies and procedures will take place to ensure they remain fit for purpose. The Playscheme Co-ordinator will notify Ofsted as soon as possible after the incident, but definitely within the required 14 day time period.

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# Missing Children Policy

University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme (UCHP) has the highest regard for the safety of the children in our care. Playworkers will always be extremely aware of the potential for children to go missing during sessions.

Even when all precautions are properly observed, emergencies can still arise. Therefore Playworkers will undertake periodic head counts, especially at the transition points between sessions (in addition to the registration procedures set out in the ‘Arrival and Departures’ policy). If for any reason a Playworker cannot account for a child’s whereabouts during a session at UCHP, the following procedure will be activated:

* The Playscheme Co-ordinator and the rest of the Playworker team must be informed that the child is missing
* A thorough search of the entire premises will commence
* The Playworkers will be careful not to create an atmosphere of panic and to ensure that the other children remain safe and adequately supervised
* Playworkers will conduct a search of the area surrounding the premises
* All Playworkers will be extra vigilant to any potentially suspicious behaviour or persons in and around UCHP
* If after 10 minutes of thorough searching the child is still missing, the Playscheme Co-ordinator will inform the police and then the child’s parents
* While waiting for the police and the parents to arrive, searches for the child will continue. During this period, other Playworkers will maintain as normal a routine as is possible for the rest of the children at the University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme
* The Playscheme Co-ordinator will be responsible for meeting the police and the missing child’s parents. The Playscheme Co-ordinator will co-ordinate any actions instructed by the police, and attempt to comfort and reassure the parents.

Once the incident is resolved, the Playscheme Co-ordinator and the Playworkers will review relevant policies and procedures and implement any necessary changes (paying particular note to the relevant provisions of the Risk Assessment for that particular UCHP venue).

All incidents of children going missing from UCHP will be recorded on an Incident Record Sheet, and in cases where either the police or social care have been informed, Ofsted will also be informed, as soon as is practicable.

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# Online Safety Policy

UCHP recognise the exciting opportunities technology offers to Playworkers and children in our setting and have invested in age appropriate resources to support this belief. While recognising the benefits we are also mindful that practitioners have a duty of care to ensure that children are protected from potential harmful online material and that appropriate filtering and monitoring systems are in place.

UCHP does not allow children to access the internet at Playscheme. It is our belief that screen time is so readily available in children’s everyday lives that Playscheme has created an environment in which children can enjoy more traditional play activities. An exception to this is for children aged over 11 who may use electronic devices in their designated room. It will be a ground rule that the internet access of any electronic device is disabled. UCHP still understands the need to support the children in their online safety, therefore, UCHP fosters an environment by which children can discuss social media and talk about any worries they may have.

UCHP recognises, when used appropriately and safely, technology can support learning, therefore we encourage adults and children to use a range of other technological resources for a wide range of purposes. At the same time, we do all we can to ensure that technology is used appropriately and that children are safeguarded against all risks. While it is not possible to completely eliminate risk, nor guarantee that children follow the Playscheme rules with regard to disabling internet access, UCHP will ensure that any e-safety concerns that do arise will be dealt with quickly to ensure that children and Playworkers adhere to safe practices and continue to be protected.

This policy applies to all at UCHP including the Playworker team, children, parents and visiting professionals. The policy is also applicable where individuals have been provided with setting issued devices for use off-site.

UCHP aims to:

* Raise awareness amongst Playworkers and parents/carers of the potential risks associated with online technologies, whilst also highlighting the many learning and social benefits
* Support safeguarding protocols and rules for acceptable use

## Hardware and provision use and data storage and management

The Playscheme Co-ordinator has a work laptop and each of our sites has a laptop that is used for work purposes; the Playscheme and Deputy Playscheme Co-ordinators have work mobiles, each site has a mobile phone. UCHP laptop/devices should only be used by authorised persons such as the Site Co-ordinators and Playscheme and Deputy Co-ordinators and in some incidents the Playworkers. Only technology owned by the setting will be used on the premises and on outings. Staff taking photographs or recording with technology not owned by UCHP is specifically not allowed.

All Playworkers have a shared responsibility to ensure that children are supervised when using any technologies to ensure appropriate and safe use, this forms part of the wider duty of care and it is essential that Playworkers respond quickly and promptly to report any issues or concerns.

Setting issued devices are used for work purposes. All laptops and phones are password protected to ensure any data stored on them is secure. They are transported securely between the settings, central office and storage facility at the start and end of each Playscheme. The devices are locked securely in the setting whilst Playscheme is in operation and in the central office when Playscheme is not in operation. An exception to this is the work laptop and work phone of the Playscheme Co-ordinator which travels on their person at all times during the Playscheme day and is secured at their house during Playscheme operating dates and in the central office when Playscheme is in operation. Both devices (mobile phone and work laptop) are password protected.

Online researching via the site phones and installing/downloading of new programs and applications is restricted to Site Co-ordinators only. The laptops are not connected to the internet. Children should not be able to search or install anything on a setting device.

## Email

The setting has access to a professional email account to use for all work related business, including communication with parents/carers. This allows email content to be monitored and protects staff from the risk of allegations, malicious emails or inappropriate contact with children and their families.

Playworkers must not engage in any personal communication (i.e. via Hotmail or Yahoo accounts or social media etc.) with children who they have a professional responsibility for. This also prohibits contact with children who previously attended the setting (unless they go through the recruitment process and become a Playworker from the age of 17 years).

Playworkers should not participate in any material that is illegal, obscene and defamatory or that is intended to annoy or intimidate another person or persons.

All emails should stay professional in tone and be checked carefully before sending, just as an official letter would be. Care should be taken when forwarding emails from others.

## Social Networking

Playworkers must not access personal blogs/social networking sites whilst working within the Playscheme setting. Whilst on an official break from work Playworkers may access their social media accounts on their own personal phones. UCHP does not condone Playworkers writing or posting photos about their work on social networking sites or web pages. If a Playworker chose to do so, they are expected to follow the rules below:

**Playworkers must not:**

* disclose any information that is confidential to the setting or any third party or disclose personal data or information about any individual child, colleague or service user, which could be in breach of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018.
* disclose the name of the setting or allow it to be identified by any details at all. This includes posting photos of children and young people, the premises or events with work colleagues.
* link their own blogs/personal web pages to the setting’s website.
* make defamatory remarks about the setting, colleagues or service users.
* misrepresent the setting by posting false or inaccurate statements.

**Communication with children and young people, by whatever method, should always take place within clear and explicit professional boundaries. Playworkers should avoid any misinterpretation of their motives or any behaviour that could be construed as grooming.**

**Playworkers must not: send social networking site ‘friend requests’ to, or accept them from, children, young people or parents who use the setting.**

**Failure to adhere to the rules and guidelines in this policy may be considered misconduct and could lead to disciplinary and /or criminal investigations.**

**UCHP Playworkers are urged to remember that anything posted online could end up in the public domain to be read by children, parents or even future employers – they must be careful what they post and who it is posted to. For example, posting explicit pictures of yourself could damage your reputation and that of your profession and organisation. It may lead to questioning your suitability to care for children.**

## Setting social media sites

UCHP has made the decision not to have a social networking site, for many reasons, including it being administratively difficult to manage.

## Sanctions

Misuse of technology or the internet may result in:

* the logging of an incident
* disciplinary action
* reporting of any illegal or incongruous activities to the appropriate authorities
* allegations process being followed

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# Partnership with Parents Policy

The University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme (UCHP) is committed to working in partnership with parents to provide high-level quality care and safe and stimulating play opportunities for children.

COVID-19 AMENDMENT

UCHP continue to be committed to working in partnership with parents. We understand that whilst parents are unable to enter the setting, they may have issues that they wish to discuss with a Site Co-ordinator. Site Co-ordinators will do the best they can to offer a private space to talk outside of the setting. If this is not possible, parents may be asked to call the Site Co-ordinators or Playscheme Co-ordinator at a mutually convenient time of the day.

**UCHP aims to achieve this by:**

* Ensuring that all parents are made to feel welcome and valued in all dealings with UCHP
* Ensuring that UCHP staff listen to parents concerns whenever they are raised. The Playscheme Co-ordinator will ensure that parents receive a prompt response from UCHP
* Communicating special events and sharing information that may impact on UCHP users
* Records and information will be made available to parents on written request, unless subject to an exemption e.g. if an investigation is in process by the police or other statutory agencies
* Ensuring that UCHP policies and procedures are made available to parents
* Acknowledging parents comment on UCHP policies and procedures and consulting them on a regular basis about the play and activities that are provided for their children
* Ensuring that there are regular opportunities for parents to meet with staff and discuss their child’s progress and any problems that they might be encountering. Meetings can be arranged at the convenience of the parents
* Ensuring that any complaints from parents are dealt with swiftly and effectively according to the ‘Complaints Policy’
* Encouraging parents to undertake supportive roles in UCHP, such as volunteering or participating in activities, visits or outings
* Encouraging parents to contribute to the running of UCHP, including offering feedback to improve the services or leading an activity
* Providing parents with formal and, if necessary, confidential means to comment on the work of UCHP
* Keeping parents updated with any changes in the operation of UCHP, such as alterations to the opening times or fee levels

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# Parent Playworker Policy

At UCHP we understand the potential stresses of Playworkers working in the same environment as their child or a close relation. We wish to support all Parent Playworkers in this position, and as such it will be a requirement that a Parent Playworker meet with the Playscheme Co-ordinator. Inin the first instance this will be to discuss the expectations UCHP has for parents working with their own children or a close relation on site. Where appropriate, ongoing meetings will occur between the Playscheme Co-ordinator, Site Co-ordinators and Parent Playworker to monitor and review the situation.

UCHP believe Parent Playworkers should remain neutral and treat all children with the same regard. It is generally not appropriate for a Parent Playworker to directly care for their own children or close relative whilst working at UCHP. However, we recognise that this may not always be possible,; in those incidents UCHP will try to accommodate the wishes of a Parent Playworker and come to an agreement which suits us all.

This agreement is based on the following principles:

* Where Parent Playworkers work at the same setting as their child or close relation, there is an agreed set of guidelines between UCHP and the Parent Playworker. This will set out the expectations of working with their child/close relation. This will include the following statements:

1. During their time at UCHP the child is in the care of UCHP and it is UCHP that retains responsibility for the child and their care.
2. Should incidents of injury occur to the child or close relative, the Parent Playworker will not take the first aid responsibility, but will engage another first aid qualified Playworker to deal with the issue.
3. Should Incidents of behaviour management occur a Parent Playworker will not take the lead, but defer to a Site Co-ordinator to manage the situation appropriately.
4. Ensuring the roles of ‘Parent’ and ‘Playworker’ are not confused when a Parent Playworker works onsite. UCHP will make certain that the procedure for reporting to parents is clearly defined and explained to all.
5. Parent Playworkers must understand that there may be times when, during group supervision or supervision briefing meetings, incidents involving their child/close relative may need discussing. It is important that at these times the Parent Playworker remain professional and maintain their Playworker role and not that of Parent. It is important that the Parent Playworker engages in the meeting and remains objective. Should the need for such conversations occur, the Site Co-ordinator will brief the Parent Playworker prior to the supervision as a courtesy.
6. Parent Playworkers will only be spoken to with regard to incidents occurring with their child during the working day, if a Site Co-ordinator would normally call the child’s parent prior to collection.
7. Parent Playworkers must understand that UCHP will follow their policies first and should a Safeguarding concern be brought to the attention of a Designated Person about their child, the Safeguarding Policy will be followed, which may mean that the Parent Playworker is not informed in the first instance.

* Where this agreement is not working or is impacting on the care of the child or other children in the setting, the Playscheme Co-ordinator and the Parent Playworker will reassess the situation. The Playscheme Co-ordinator may consider moving the Parent Playworker to another UCHP setting. This will enable the child to continue to forge consistent relationships with other children in their current setting.
* Playworkers caring for another Playworkers child will treat them as they would any other parent/child.
* No special treatment will be offered to any child or parent who has connections with UCHP.
* There will be an agreement between the Parent Playworker, Site Co-ordinator and Playscheme Co-ordinator about contact with the child during the Playscheme day. Although we do not want to restrict a parent seeing their child, we must consider the impact this might have on the child’s ability to forge relationships with others in the setting.

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# Play Policy

**Play is an essential part of a child’s life. The University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme (UCHP) takes children’s play seriously even when it involves children getting very messy. UCHP understand that children need and want to take risks when they play and as such UCHP aims to provide play experiences that stimulate and challenge the children into exploring and developing their abilities. It is the role of the Playworker to offer a wide range of play opportunities that expose children to acceptable risk enabling children to play freely and be the masters of their own play.**

**COVID-19 AMENDMENT**

UCHP understand that the Playscheme environment will be a very different one that the children are used to. UCHP remain strongly committed to giving children the opportunity to play, but understand for safety reasons, there might be some limitations to this. The UCHP team will work with the children and endeavour to support them in having a fun time at Playscheme.

All children need to play: the impulse to play is innate. Play is a biological, psychological and social necessity, and is fundamental to the healthy development and well-being of individuals and communities.

Play is a process that is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated. Children determine and control the content and intent of their play, by following their own instincts, ideas and interests, in their own way for their own reasons. To play is to allow one to freely explore and make sense of the world, experiment, and express things without fear of judgement

The prime focus and essence of Playwork is to support and facilitate play. The role of the Playworker is to support all children in the creation of a space in which they can play. The environment will be set up prior to children arriving and will include a range of play opportunities. Children’s confidence is encouraged by Playworkers as they are supported in making requests for other equipment, which can be used as the children wish. The Playworkers response to children and young people playing is based on a sound up to date knowledge of the play process, and reflective practice. Children are not required to be occupied at all times so Playworkers recognise their own impact on the play space and the impact of children’s play on themselves. Playworkers choose an intervention style that enables children and young people to extend their play.

All Playworker intervention must balance risk with the developmental benefit and well-being of children. UCHP accepts that in any play situation there is an element of risk, therefore when providing any play opportunity determining whether or not the level of risk is acceptable or tolerable will be given consideration taking into account:

* The likelihood of children coming to harm
* The severity of that harm
* The benefits, rewards and outcomes of the activity

All children need and want to take risks in order to explore their capabilities. UCHP understands that without a child’s strongly motivated response to challenge and risk they would have never learnt to walk, climb or even ride a bike. As such UCHP will allow the children to stretch themselves, test and develop their abilities in fun and exciting ways.

A record of activities and play opportunities alongside a Risk Benefit Assessment will be kept and reviewed to facilitate future planning. Children will be involved in planning activities so that the programme reflects their opinions. Activities will be carefully planned to reflect children’s natural curiosity, advance their thinking and use their imagination.

Playworkers recognise that children need to put their own creative style and ideas into their creations such as cooking, arts and crafts, sports and gardening. Children will be given notice when their play must come to an end. If a play request is refused an explanation will be given.

## Outdoor Play

Children will be offered access to outdoor play every day, with the exception of adverse weather conditions.

Any outdoor play will take place in safe, appropriately supervised spaces. Before outdoor activities commence, safety checks and risk assessments are carried out.

UCHP’s resources reflect positive images with regard to culture, ethnicity, gender, and disability.

Activities will be evaluated by Playworkers and children regularly so play experiences can be improved.

## Equipment

UCHP provides a wide range of resources and equipment in order to facilitate play opportunities and enhance children’s play experiences. Resources will show men and women in a variety of roles, and people with different abilities being both active and creative. Examples of everyday life will portray people from a variety of cultural backgrounds in a range of non-stereotypical roles. UCHP provides a wide selection of books that are regularly updated. The selection includes reference books, dual language books and a range of age-appropriate formats.

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| Signed by Playscheme Co-ordinator |  |
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# Playworkers Disciplinary Policy

The University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme (UCHP) will strive to maintain a well-motivated, highly skilled and professional Playworkers team. However, occasionally action will need to be taken to encourage improvement in individual behaviour and performance.

If a Playworker is subject to disciplinary action, fair and consistent procedures will be employed. Investigations will be non-discriminatory and apply equally to all Playworkers irrespective of sex, marital, age status, sexual preference, race or disability.

Playworkers will be given the opportunity to state their case, and be accompanied by a colleague or Trade Union representative of their choice, during any part of the disciplinary process.

Playworkers will not be dismissed for a first breach of discipline except in the case of gross misconduct (see below).

Either the Playscheme Co-ordinator or Manager of Childcare Services will conduct investigations after taking advice from the University of Cambridge HR Adviser and/or the University Legal Department. Playworkers have a right to appeal against any action taken against them.

The Playworkers Disciplinary Procedure operates as follows:

## Informal Discussion

Before taking formal action, the Playscheme Co-ordinator will make every effort to resolve the matter by informal discussions between parties concerned. A plan of action will be drawn up detailing how the Playscheme Co-ordinator expects improvements in practice to be made. If a satisfactory outcome or improvements are not reached, a formal discussion will take place.

Formal Discussion

The Playscheme Co-ordinator arrange to have a formal discussion with the Playworker. In the discussion the Playscheme Co-ordinator will notify and explain the reason for the formal discussion. The Playworker will be given the opportunity to talk through any issues or questions they may have as a result of the discussion. If it is considered by the Playscheme Co-ordinator that a Playworkers performance remains consistently unsatisfactory and improvements cannot be made, then the Playscheme is within its rights to retract any future offers of work.

## Gross Misconduct

If it is brought to the attention of the Playscheme Co-ordinator that a Playworker has committed an act of the following nature, dismissal will be the normal outcome following the matter being investigated:

* Child abuse (for further details refer to the Child Protection policy)
* Serious infringement of health and safety rules (for further details refer to the Health and Safety policy)
* Assaulting another person
* Persistent bullying, sexual or racial harassment
* Being unfit for work through alcohol or illegal drug use
* Gross negligence that either causes or might cause injury, loss or damage to persons or property
* Theft, fraud or deliberate falsification of the University of Cambridge Holiday Playschemes documents
* Deliberate damage to University of Cambridge Holiday Playschemes property or sites UCHP rent
* Being an unfit person under the terms of the Care Standards Act 2000 or the Children’s Act 1989.

While the alleged incident of gross misconduct is being investigated, the individual concerned is likely to be suspended, during which time normal pay levels will prevail for their scheduled work days as documented in the Playworker staff timetable. Such suspension is not to be regarded as a form of disciplinary action and will be for as short a period as possible. Any decision to dismiss will be taken only after a full investigation.

If the Playworker member has been found to have committed an act of gross misconduct, they will be dismissed without notice.

## Appeals

Playworkers wishing to appeal against a disciplinary decision must do so in writing to the Playscheme Co-ordinator or Manager of Childcare Services as appropriate and within 15 working days of the decision being communicated. Appeals will be dealt with as quickly as possible and within at least 15 days. If possible, somebody will be appointed who was not involved in the original disciplinary action who will hear the appeal and impartially adjudicate the case.

At all stages of the procedure, the right to appeal will be confirmed as part of the warning, suspension or dismissal letter.

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# Playworkers Induction Policy

**COVID-19 AMENDMENT**

The Playscheme induction process may look very different to usual, to take into account the social distancing measures. UCHP will attempt to complete induction via a zoom meeting where possible. If this is not possible then it will be done face to face with social distancing measures in place.

Group Supervision will continue to take place, it will be a requirement that the Playworkers maintain social distancing measures and wear a face covering.

New Playworkers will be issued with a role description, a copy of the University of Cambridge Holiday Playschemes (UCHP) Playworkers Induction information and shown how to access a copy of all our current policies and procedures on our website. Playworkers will also undergo a thorough induction process firstly with the Play scheme Co-ordinator at the Playscheme site and secondly on their first day at Playscheme. A mentor will be assigned at Playscheme to help them settle in.

The induction will include Site Co-ordinators introducing new Playworkers to colleagues, children and if necessary parents.

Policies and procedures will be shown and explained to Playworkers. They will be shown where they are kept onsite. All Playworkers will be given a copy of the Safeguarding Policy and asked to sign to say they have understood and will implement this policy. Time will be given for discussions around the practical implications of the UCHP’s policies and practices. Particular attention will also be drawn to the Health and Safety policies.

Playworkers should be made aware of UCHP’s obligation to fulfil the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum.

As part of the induction, the Playworker will have opportunity to discuss and talk through UCHP’s everyday practices. These will include:

* Playworker structure
* Playworkers shifts /rota
* Confidentiality
* Rest Breaks
* Playworkers Absences
* Day-to-day management and running of UCHP
* Responsibilities
* Code of conduct (including confidentiality)
* Review and work management
* Training and qualification development
* Policies and procedures
* Safeguarding
* Whistle Blowing.

#### Showing new Playworkers around the premises should include:

* Fire exits and assembly point
* Toilets
* Playworkers room
* Kitchen
* University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme reception desk (including telephone, office equipment and where documentation is kept)
* Storage areas
* First aid box
* Equipment that belongs to the University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme
* Outside play areas
* Any hazards to be aware of

## Playworkers Development and Training

The Playworkers are the UCHP’s most valuable resource, as it is only through their commitment and effort that good quality provision can be both established and maintained. We are therefore committed to providing good training and development opportunities for Playworkers so that they are able to perform their roles both efficiently and effectively.

UCHP is committed to providing Playworkers:

* A full induction process
* A process of job review
* An up to date record of Playworkers qualifications and training.

This will help to ensure that Playworkers’ development needs are being met and that Playworkers training and qualifications are meeting the requirements of UCHP and any legislative requirements.

## Playworker Group Supervision Meeting

Playworker group supervision meeting take place weekly after the Playscheme day and must be attended. Daily supervision meetings are conducted at the beginning and end of the Playscheme day. These meetings keep Playworkers informed of any day to day issues. Playworker Group Supervision Meetings allow time for planning and problem solving, information and task sharing, updates on safeguarding and acknowledging work issues. These are also opportunities for Playworkers to reflect on their work performance and review any difficulties they may be facing.

## Training Opportunities

UCHP will do all it can to support Playworkers that are working towards improving their qualifications and training experience. All Playworkers are encouraged to take up training opportunities to expand their professional development and ensure an up to date knowledge of childcare issues.

It is the Playscheme Co-ordinator’s responsibility to identify and promote suitable training courses for Playworkers and strongly encourage them to take advantage of these. Support will be given to help Playworkers overcome any barriers to accessing such training.

Playworkers will be expected to attend training courses and update skills as and when requested by their Playscheme Co-ordinator. Training such as Safeguarding Children and Prevent Duty are mandatory and are completed as part of the induction process. A 12 hour Paediatric First Aid course and Food Hygiene course are also available for Playworkers to complete.

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# Playworkers Policy

The University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme (UCHP) will make every effort to be flexible with Playworkers and to promote harmonious working relations.

UCHP expects honesty, loyalty and diligence from its Playworkers.

Playworkers should be aware that the minimum-Playworker ratio for children aged 4-7 will be 1:8. However in some circumstance the ratio of Playworkers to children may need to be higher. For children aged over eight, UCHP will make every effort to maintain a ratio of Playworkers to children of at least 1:10. When children are off site UCHP maintains a ratio of 1:5 for children aged 4-10 years and 1:10 for children aged over 11.

## Code of conduct

1. All Playworkers are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a professional, courteous, helpful and consistent manner.
2. Playworkers are not permitted to contact the children or parents of UCHP outside of Playscheme including through social media. If a child attempts to make contact with a Playworker outside of Playscheme then this information must be passed onto the Playscheme Co-ordinator immediately.
3. Playworkers must inform us if they have a relationship with any of the children outside of the Playscheme. Depending on the nature of the relationship, the Playscheme Co-ordinator may decide to take action such as moving the Playworker to a different site.
4. Playworkers are not allowed to babysit children outside of Playscheme unless a prior arrangement exists and this has been discussed with the Playscheme Co-ordination.
5. Playworkers are expected to display both knowledge and understanding of child protection, multi-cultural issues and a commitment to treating all children as individuals and with equal concern and respect.
6. Playworkers will have regard for wearing appropriate clothes and shoes when working with children and with awareness of health and safety issues.
7. Personal mobiles should be switched off and not used during working hours. If Playworkers do need to receive an emergency call, the person calling them should use the main UCHP site mobile number.
8. UCHP will ensure that space is made during the working day for Playworkers to take regular breaks, ensuring that no Playworker exceeds the legal limit of six hours consecutive work without a break.
9. Under no circumstances should any arguments or disagreements between Playworkers occur in the presence of children or parents.
10. No smoking, alcohol or drug use is allowed on UCHP premises.
11. No bullying, swearing, harassment or victimisation will be tolerated on UCHP premises.
12. Offensive behaviour such as sexist or racist language or harassment will not be tolerated.
13. Physical contact between children and Plaworkers must be kept to an appropriate level. Contact such as kissing, prolonged cuddling or allowing a child to sit on a Playworkers lap for a prolonged period of time is not allowed.
14. Touching a child’s private area (genitals, inner thigh, bottoms or breasts) is not allowed. Exceptions are made in the circumstances of a first aid injury that requires attention or if intimate care is needed. In these instances the care given will be recorded on either the accident form or an intimate care record and a minimum of two Playworkers must be present at all times. If a child does not wish for support to be given in this way, be it first aid (unless it is life or death) or intimate care, then the Playworker will support the child in self-care. A child’s parents and the Playscheme Co-ordinator will also be called and an alternative solution sought.
15. All Playworkers are expected to treat everyone respectfully at all times and inappropriate behaviour may lead to disciplinary action.
16. Playworkers must not be left on their own with children, there must be a minimum of two Playworkers present in all areas.

## Confidentiality

Playworkers have a right to privacy, as do children and their parents. Personal details should not be discussed except in exceptional circumstances.

The Playscheme Co-ordinator, Playworkers, volunteers and any other individual associated with the running or management of UCHP will respect confidentiality by:

* Not discussing individual incidents, behaviour or information of children in front of parents and other children
* Not discussing confidential matters about children with other parents
* Not discussing confidential matters about parents with children or other parents
* Not discussing confidential information about other Playworkers
* Only passing sensitive information, in written or oral form, to people the Playscheme Co-ordinator deems relevant.

In circumstances where Playworkers have good reason to believe that a child is at risk, or is likely to be at risk, of child abuse or neglect, the ‘Safeguarding policy’ will override confidentiality on a ‘benefit to know’ basis.

Playworkers failing to show due regard for confidentiality will be liable to disciplinary action under the provisions of the ‘Playworkers Disciplinary’ procedures.

Under no circumstances should Playworkers provide any information about children to any branch of the media. All media enquiries should be passed in the first instance to the Playscheme Co-ordinator.

## Valuing Playworkers

UCHP will arrange regular Playworker meetings where all Playworkers are able to discuss and contribute in a positive manner.

UCHP should encourage Playworkers to contribute to the development and quality of the programme of activities provided.

All Playworkers will have a review and will be encouraged to attend training courses to enhance their skills.

The Playscheme Co-ordinator will be available to Playworkers to discuss any concerns relating to UCHP.

## Absences

If Playworkers require compassionate leave this should be negotiated with the Playscheme Co-ordinator.

If Playworkers are unable to attend work due to illness or other medical condition, they must contact the Site Co-ordinator prior to the start of the working day.

Playworkers should indicate why they are unable to attend work and when they expect to return. If a Playworker is off due to sickness or diarrhoea they should not return to work until they have had a clear 48 hour period without episodes of sickness or diarrhoea

The Playscheme Co-ordinator will ensure that suitable and sufficient contingency plans are in place to cover emergencies, unexpected Playworker absences, Playworker breaks and sickness.

## Whistle Blowing Procedure

This guidance is written for all working at Playscheme.

Playworkers must acknowledge their individual responsibilities to bring matters of concern to the attention of the Playscheme Co-ordinator, the Manager of Childcare Services and/or relevant agencies. Although this can be difficult it is particularly important where the welfare of children may be at risk.

You may be the first to recognise that something is wrong but may not feel able to express your concern out of a feeling that this would be disloyal to colleagues or you may fear harassment or victimisation. These feelings, however natural, must never result in a child or young person continuing to be unnecessarily at risk. Remember it is often the most vulnerable children or young people who are targeted. These children need someone like you to safeguard their welfare.

UCHP will not tolerate harassment or victimisation and will take action to protect Playworkers when they raise a concern in good faith. UCHP will do it’s best to protect a whistle blower’s identity when a concern is raised and a Playworker does not wish their identity to be disclosed. However, if the concern raised needs to be addressed through another procedure, the worker may be required to provide a signed statement as part of the evidence. In some circumstances the setting may have to disclose the identity of the worker without their consent; this will be discussed with the Playworker first. UCHP will ensure that appropriate advice and support is made available to the Playworker raising the concern. Any person raising a concern will be kept informed of the progress and outcome of any investigation. UCHP will not tolerate malicious allegations, which may be considered a disciplinary offence.

*Don’t think what if I am wrong – think what if I am right*

**Reasons for whistle blowing**

Each individual has a responsibility for raising concerns about unacceptable practice or behaviour

* To prevent the problem worsening or widening
* To protect or reduce risks to others
* To prevent becoming implicated yourself

**What stops people from whistle blowing?**

* Starting a chain of events which spirals
* Disrupting the work or project
* Fear of getting it wrong
* Fear of repercussions or damaging careers
* Fear of not being believed

**How to raise a concern**

* You should voice your concerns, suspicions or uneasiness as soon as you feel you can. The earlier a concern is expressed the easier and sooner it is possible for action to be taken
* Try to pinpoint what practice is concerning you and why
* Approach someone you trust and who you believe will respond
* Make sure you get a satisfactory response – don’t let matters rest
* Put your concerns in writing on a ‘Confidential Incident Record’ form
* Discuss your concerns with the Playscheme Co-ordinator or Manager of Childcare Services
* A member of staff is not expected to prove the truth of an allegation

but will need to demonstrate sufficient grounds for the concern

* The Playscheme Co-ordinator or Manager of Childcare Services will undertake an investigation into your concerns and offer you support

## Investigation

The action taken will depend on the nature of the concern. All matters raised will be thoroughly investigated internally (unless procedures set out in the Safeguarding Policy supersede this). Initially meetings will be arranged with the Playworker who has raised the concern and, separately, any individuals involved. Based on the discussions at these meetings, a decision will then be made to determine whether an investigation is appropriate and if so what form it will take. Concerns or allegations that raise issues which fall within the scope of other policies will be addressed under those procedures. Playworkers raising the concern will be informed about how the matter was investigated, conclusions drawn from the investigation and who they should contact if they be unhappy with the response. If the concern raised involves the Playscheme Co-ordinator, then the Manager of Childcare Services will carry out any investigation necessary.

## People to contact

Playscheme Co-ordinator - 07985 735725 (during Playscheme) 01223 764186 (during term time)

Deputy Playscheme Co-ordinator - 07377 944519 (during Playscheme) or 01223 330766 (during term time)

Manager of Childcare Services – 01223 765305

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| Signed by Playscheme Co-ordinator |  |
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# Playworkers Recruitment Policy

The University of Cambridge (UCHP) is committed to robust recruitment procedures that safeguard children and offer equal opportunity. The procedures set out below will be followed when recruiting. UCHP selection panels are aware of, and trained in, safe recruitment practices.

Where necessary, vacant positions will be advertised. Job adverts will include a clear message about UCHP’s commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

Persons wishing to apply will be sent an application form, role description and any other relevant information.

**COVID-19 AMENDMENT**

UCHP will continue to follow our robust recruitment procedures. Whilst there is a need to maintain social distancing, UCHP will consider completing interviews via zoom. If this is not possible, face to face interviews will continue insuring that a distance of two metres can be maintained.

**The University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme application form includes:**

* A declaration that all information is correct
* A section under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 that asks if the applicant has been awaiting a verdict, convicted, cautioned or court martialled for any relevant offence
* Two referees (one of which must be the most recent employer if applicable
* That UCHP reserve the right to contact the candidate’s last employer, as indicated on the application form, even if they are not named as a referee

UCHP will select suitable candidates for interview. Candidates will be invited to attend interview and will be asked to bring along two forms of identification in compliance with ‘Right to Work’ legislation and any relevant qualification certificates, which will be photocopied. Referees will be contacted directly after the interview and will be asked if they have any child protection concerns about the candidate.

UCHP will follow up on any gaps in the candidate’s employment history rigorously and ensure that they are satisfied with the explanation given. UCHP will undertake additional checks if necessary.

Enhanced DBS checks will be carried out for all Playworkers, students and volunteers that will work directly and indirectly with children, or have access to children’s information. The first DBS check will be paid for by UCHP, if a Playworker fails to register with the DBS Update Service in the set time or their subscription expires they will be required to pay for a new DBS check. Playworkers will be required to register to the DBS Update Service annually at a cost of £13 per year to the Playworker, to ensure the continued safety of the children in our setting. In accordance with the Childcare Act 2006 Playworkers will need to sign documentation with regard to ‘Disqualification by Association’ confirming that to the best of their knowledge they or any person living or working in their household are not disqualified from working with children. A Playworkers DBS status will be checked prior to the start of every Playscheme.

The Playscheme Co-ordinator will ensure that no newly appointed worker is permitted to work unsupervised with children unless their Enhanced DBS Disclosure has come back and it is clear.

If UCHP is awaiting an outcome from the DBS check and have decided to offer work to the Playworker subject to the outcome of the DBS check, a risk assessment will be completed.

UCHP will not hire Playworkers or volunteers who have been convicted of an offence or have been subject to an Order that disqualifies them from registration under regulations made under schedule 9A of the Children Act 1989. A Playworker that is disqualified by association will have to apply to Ofsted for a waiver. In this instance UCHP will follow the Disqualification by Association Policy

UCHP is aware of Asylum and Immigration Act requirements and therefore will check the ability of all new starters to work in the UK. Candidates are expected to provide documents confirming their status, usually driving licences, passport, and NI number.

If unsure about robust recruitment practices, UCHP may seek support from a University of Cambridge HR Adviser or Local Authority Childcare Business and Employer Support Team or other agencies.

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# Grievances/complaints at work Policy

UCHP recognises that there may be times when Playworkers are unhappy about things at work, and encourages them to raise issues/problems as they arise so that they can be resolved quickly, fairly and to the satisfaction of all concerned, and are prevented from developing into more serious disputes.

You have the right to raise a grievance, (i.e. a complaint or problem), about your treatment/conditions at work, i.e. about matters that:

* arise from your work with UCHP and
* directly affect you as an individual.

## How to Raise a Grievance

##### Informal Stage

Where you discuss with the Playscheme Co-ordinator the concern(s) that you have, aiming to resolve them as quickly as possible.

If the grievance is in relation to Playscheme Co-ordinator, employees may submit their grievance to the Manager of Childcare Services (01223 765305). Employees may also wish to refer to UCHP’s ‘Child Protection Whistle Blowing’ policy.

##### Formal Stage

If your complaints/concerns remain unresolved, despite informal discussions, you should put your grievance(s) in writing to the Playscheme Co-ordinator or Manager of Childcare Services describing:

* The details and nature of their complaint
* The reasons why you are not satisfied with the outcome/response from informal discussions
* That you wish the matter to be addressed as a formal grievance
* Desired outcome at this stage.

You may be accompanied and/or represented at this stage. Your representative may submit the grievance on your behalf.

##### Meeting

Representatives of UCHP will arrange to meet you to hear the full facts of the situation, and to attempt to find a satisfactory solution. You have the right to be accompanied and/or represented at this meeting by a person of your choosing. The meeting should be held where possible, within **ten working days** of receipt of the written complaint.

This meeting should be conducted in as informal a manner as possible to encourage a frank and full discussion of the issues and to facilitate a satisfactory solution for all concerned. In the majority of cases a satisfactory solution will be achieved through these discussions and the committee will be able to deliver a decision and agree any action(s) at the end of the meeting. This outcome should be confirmed in writing within **ten working days** of the meeting.

However, in some cases, discussions will uncover other facts/issues that require further investigation. In these circumstances, the meeting should be adjourned, by mutual agreement, until UCHP has been able to investigate the identified areas/points of concern, including discussion with identified individuals as appropriate.

Generally, any further investigations should be completed and a second meeting held with as soon as possible dependant on the infrequent nature of Playscheme, at which time the management committee should deliver a decision on the grievance and confirm this in writing.

The committee’s decision must be delivered to the worker personally and then confirmed in writing within **ten working days**. A decision, therefore, can only be made after full discussion with the Playworker and it will be delivered in person in the first instance.

Playworkers should be informed, in the letter confirming the outcome of the meeting(s), of their rights, if not satisfied with the outcome, to seek additional advice from ACAS, other professionals and their trade union.

It may also be necessary at this stage for UCHP’s management to seek additional advice from other professionals.

If a Playworker raises a grievance that, through investigation, proves to be malicious they may find themselves subject to disciplinary action.

A Playworker cannot raise the same/related grievance within 12 months of the resolution, outcome or withdrawal of the grievance.

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# Playworker Review and Development Policy

Playworker Review and Development is a formal and recorded process through which the professional actions of Playworkers are regularly reviewed A record of how UCHP improves the practice of Playworkers and as a result the service provided to children and parents. This can be found in Group Playworker Supervision notes, individual Playworker PRD and the Quality Framework

Playworker Review and Development acts as a means for ensuring that Playworkers have access to the support and training they require for professional growth and development.

Playworker Review and Development enables Co-ordinators and Playworkers to examine and reflect on the quality of their practice and to facilitate discussion. Review and development meetings provide opportunities for the Playworkers to:

* discuss any issues and identify solutions to address issues as they arise
* receive coaching to improve their personal effectiveness

There should be no surprises during these meetings as any concerns that either party have will be addressed at the time on a Playscheme by Playscheme basis.

At UCHP all Playworkers who work directly with children and families are supervised by the Site Co-ordinator and the Playscheme and Deputy Playscheme Co-ordinator.

Review and development meetings are held with each Playworker on an annual basis. Meetings are conducted in line with existing procedures and are held in a confidential space suitable for the task.

A copy of the review record form is retained by the Playscheme Co-ordinator and a copy provided to the Playworker. Each Playworker has a file which holds a copy of the review and development record form. The file is stored securely at all times at the University of Cambridge Childcare Office.

Where concerns are raised, the Playscheme Co-ordinator and Playworker seek to identify solutions and identify further actions that need to be taken these are recorded.

During supervision meetings Playworkers are able to discuss any concerns they may have. However, we would encourage Playworkers to come to the Co-ordinator team at any time if they have concerns.

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# Registration, Booking and Payment Policy

**COVID-19 AMENDMENT**

Whilst the COVID-19 pandemic continues there will be a slight change to the Registration, Booking and Payments Policy

**BOOKINGS**

UCHP hope to offer spaces for 60 children at Chesterton and 60 children at St Mary’s. Each child will be placed into a group no bigger than 15 children.

We will only offer full days, there will not be the option to book a half day. This is to ensure that we can keep consistent groups of children.

Parents will need to book the full week Monday to Thursday (8:30am – 17:30pm) and Friday (8:30am -16:00pm) UCHP will be closing earlier on the Friday to clean the site fully.

The fees will be as follows

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Number of children for full weeks booking** | | | |
| **1 child** | **2 children** | **3 children** | **4 children** |
| **Full Rate** | £150 | £272.50 | £395 | £517.50 |
| **Discounted Rate** | £117.50 | £210 | £302.50 | £395 |
| **10% off Rate** | £135 | £245.25 | £355.50 | £465.75 |

No bookings will be taken after close of advanced booking.

If a booking requires further discussion, this will in the first instance be conducted via the telephone; alternative options would be to meet via zoom. As a last resort, UCHP will consider a face-to-face meeting providing social distancing can be maintained and a face covering is worn.

CANCELLATION FEES

Booked sessions can be cancelled without financial penalty up to seven days after the booking confirmations email has been sent. **No refunds will be given for any cancellations requested 7 days after your booking has been confirmed.** Confirmation emails will state the time and date deadline for any cancellations. Any cancellations made within the 7-day period will generate a new confirmation. However, the date sent in your original confirmation for amendments still stands. You will not be given a further 7 days to cancel or amend your changed bookings.

Exceptional circumstances or cancellations due to COVID-19 related incidents must be put in writing. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis and at the discretion of the Playscheme Co-ordinator and the Manager of Childcare Services.

The University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme (UCHP) caters for children of their staff and students, venue employees and venue parents. Members of the public are eligible to register and will be offered the facilities where spaces are available.

UCHP rents space from local schools and other venues, and our regulatory body, Ofsted, agrees a maximum number of spaces available for each site, which will dictate the number of spaces available to children at each venue. UCHP will accept children from age four (but only from the October Playscheme once a child is in the Reception Class of school) up to and including the age of fifteen years.

UCHP welcomes bookings from all family types and the Playscheme staff strive to adapt their practice to accommodate the needs of all children. UCHP endeavours to provide places for all parents booking onto the Playscheme, but there may be times when places are full. In this situation the Childcare Office operates a waiting list system (see ‘Waiting List’ section).

Some children may need additional support to be able to attend UCHP. In these circumstances, a booking will need to be made within the advanced booking period. UCHP may not be able to accommodate the booking in the nearest upcoming Playscheme depending on the needs of the child. UCHP will invite the parent into the Childcare Office for a discussion about their child’s needs, and will take further information such as an Education Health and Care Plan and/or professional reports in order to gather as much information about the child’s needs as possible. UCHP will also want to contact the school the child attends and other professionals involved in their care. If, after receiving such information, UCHP are unclear whether they will be able to meet the needs of the child within the setting, an invite will be extended to the parent and their child to attend a taster session. This session will allow UCHP to get to know the child and observe how they respond to our setting. UCHP understand that a Playscheme setting can be a very busy environment and does not have the facilities to offer a separate area away from the main activities of the day, and this type of environment might not suit the needs of all children. If after the taster session and advice sought from other professionals involved in the care of the child, it is deemed that UCHP cannot meet the child’s care needs then UCHP have the right to refuse a space.

#### Registration

Playscheme requires registration on an annual basis based on calendar year, not academic year, however there is also an expectation on the part of families to inform UCHP of any relevant changes in circumstance or contact details during this time. The Annual Registration Form asks for details regarding the child/childrens’ behavioural/medical needs and preferences, as well as details of the adults involved in their life including the school the child/children attends and their class teacher. By registering with Playscheme, you are providing consent for Playscheme to provide all necessary care and treatment to your child/children; including sharing information with other agencies involved in the care of your children if relevant and proportionate and for the child/children to participate fully in all play opportunities and activities offered at Playscheme.

The Annual Registration Form will detail any relevant information about the child/children that Playscheme should be aware of, as well as any contact details for the adults involved closest in the children’s lives and who has permission to collect them from Playscheme. It must include the contact details of all Legal Guardians. Completing the registration form is an acceptance of the terms and conditions set out by UCHP and provides parental consent for children to fully participate in all aspects of Playscheme. Any special conditions or extra-ordinary requests must be communicated to UCHP at time of registration. Failure to provide the information requested on the registration form will result in a refusal of registration. Once registered, families are able to use Playscheme by booking on a holiday–by-holiday basis.

#### Booking

Booking forms can’t be processed without a complete and up to date Annual Registration Form. Once registered, booking is a straight forward process of identifying which days you wish for your child/children to attend and completing a Booking Form. The ‘planned activities’ for each holiday are available on the Playscheme website (www.childcare.admin.cam.ac.uk/playscheme) and will be emailed to registered parents. It can be useful when choosing days with your child/ren, however it should be noted that planned activities can be subject to change where necessary without prior warning.

#### Advanced booking

Playscheme administration takes bookings for one holiday at a time, with the forms for the next holiday becoming available online after the preceding holiday ends. These will be emailed to registered parents. Booking Forms for the next holiday are available online a few days before bookings open. This gives parents adequate time to think about their childcare needs before advanced booking opens. There is usually a window for advanced booking of usually no less than 4 weeks. Bookings are processed on a ‘first come, first served’ basis. Initially bookings are available only to priority users (see rate entitlement), then bookings opens to general public users shortly before the holiday itself. Advanced booking closes approximately one week prior to the start of the Playscheme (specific deadlines will be detailed on the relevant Booking Forms). After advanced booking is closed, Playscheme reserves the right not to accept booking requests (see ‘Late-bookings’).

Booking requests should be sent using the Booking Form to the Childcare Office or via e-mail to [Playscheme@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:Playscheme@admin.cam.ac.uk). Once Playscheme receives a Booking Form, it will be processed in time and date order on a ‘first come, first served basis’, and provided we can accommodate the request, a confirmation will be sent out via e-mail (please inform Playscheme if you do not have access to e-mail and require a postal hardcopy).

* Booking Forms received prior to the opening of advanced booking will be deleted.
* Playscheme forms may be returned to parents if they are incomplete or incorrect. No booking will be made for incomplete forms/un-registered children or parents that have not submitted the updated years Annual Registration form.
* In the unlikely event that adequate staffing levels cannot be met, offers of places may have to be withdrawn. This would only apply once the standby staff in the Childcare Office had been fully utilised. In this instance a full refund would be given.

#### Late-bookings (after the close of advanced bookings)

In some circumstances, sessions can be added after the close of advanced booking. If Playscheme is able to accommodate these requests (e.g. if capacity has not been reached and any other requirements are met) then sessions charged will incur an additional fee for ‘late-booking’.

Parents that have been unsuccessful during advanced booking can try and book a place directly on site. Please be aware that there will be an additional administrative charge of £2.50 per child per day each time a booking is made after advance booking has closed (please see the fee table below). Payments for on-site bookings should be cash or cheque; however those wishing to pay via childcare vouchers or e-sales may do so by contacting the Childcare Office once the booking has been made on-site. In these circumstances, a holding payment (cheque or cash) may be requested.

If your child is in need of **additional support** during Playscheme, to ensure they are offered quality and continuity of care, Playscheme may only be able to accept booking requests made in advance (and not normally on-site). This is to ensure that we have the time to make the necessary provision for your child by employing an experienced member of support staff and applying for funding (if both child and family meet set criteria). Children who are in need of additional support can book on site if the Playscheme Co-ordinator feels we can offer that child quality of care and have the necessary support systems in place.

#### Priority Booking & Reduced Rate entitlement

Playscheme offers a reduced rate to users from our stakeholder groups, as well as discounted sessions for siblings. Sessions are charged as either full- or half- days, and full pricing information is available on our website and on Booking Forms. The reduced rate is only available for a child when the person who has legal responsibility for that child meets the criteria set out below:

Membership of one or more of the following bodies entitles the user to the **reduced rate** and **priority booking**:

* University of Cambridge Staff (with CHRIS payroll number)
* University of Cambridge Students (CAMSIS ID)
* Cambridge Assessment Staff
* Cambridge University Press Staff
* Cambridge Enterprise
* Institute of Manufacturing (IfM West Cambridge site)

Staff at the constituent Colleges of the University of Cambridge (including College Teaching Officers) that are not employed directly by the University are not eligible for the reduced rate, however they are offered a 10% discount from the full rate. Please contact Playscheme for any queries regarding these entitlements and eligibility for priority booking.

Children attending St Mary’s and Chesterton school (Venue Parent) will also be eligible for priority booking but not the reduced rate. To be eligible for priority booking as a Venue Parent, the child booking onto Playscheme must be in attendance. For example if an older sibling goes to Chesterton Community College, the younger sibling is only eligible to book in the priority category if the older sibling is also in attendance.

Priority booking dates will be detailed on the UCHP website and relevant Booking Forms.

#### Waiting List

* The waiting list will only be kept and used in the Childcare Office on a ‘first come first served’ basis. When a vacancy at UCHP becomes available, UCHP will contact the next in line on the waiting list
* People offered spaces on the waiting list will have 24 hours to confirm if they wish to take the offered places. If no response is given after 24 hours the space will be offered to the next person on the waiting list.
* **The waiting list will only apply until 2 working days prior to Playscheme starting.** The exact date of this will be communicated to parents in the booking email. Once the Playscheme sites have opened the waiting list will no longer exist. Parents can call the sites directly to enquire about possible availability.

Cancellation Fees

Booked sessions can be cancelled without financial penalty up to seven days after the booking confirmations email has been sent. **No refunds will be given for any cancellations requested 7 days after your booking has been confirmed.** Confirmation emails will state the time and date deadline for any cancellations. Any cancellations made within the 7 day period will generate a new confirmation. However, the date sent in your original confirmation for amendments still stands. You will not be given a further 7 days to cancel or amend your changed bookings. Exceptional circumstances, which must be put in writing, will be considered at the discretion of the Playscheme Co-ordinator and the Manager of Childcare Services. Additional days can be requested at any time depending in availability.

#### Cancellation in the Summer

Due to the span of dates covering the Summer holidays, UCHP has agreed to offer a refund for booked sessions cancelled **with 14 days’ notice**. If you have paid via e-sales, cash or cheque your refund will be processed as soon as possible. If you have paid using Childcare Vouchers or the Tax Free Childcare you will be given a credit to use on future Playschemes as UCHP are unable to refund via these methods. Credits must be used by the end of the following May half term and will not be carried on past this cut off point.

#### Late Collection Fees

If you are late collecting your child at the end of any Playscheme session, then a penalty will be levied. For morning half-day sessions, any collection after the morning session has ended (13:00) will incur a fee of 50p per minute. Any collection after the end of the afternoon session (17:30) will incur a fee of 50p per minute. This should be settled before the end of the week in which the late fine occurred.

#### Payment

Parents are able to pay via ‘e-sales’ (direct online payment), childcare vouchers, Tax Free Childcare or cheques/cash. Booking confirmations will detail any outstanding amounts owed and provide a web link to the Universities e-sales site for internet payment. If UCHP has experienced non-payment issues in previous holidays with a parent then bookings for the next holiday will not be processed until prior payments have been made.

The table below details some of the Childcare Voucher providers UCHP is currently registered with. If you wish to use a provider not detailed, please contact the Childcare Office so we can register with them

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Provider: | Kiddi-Vouchers | Edenred | Care4 | Fideliti | Kids Unlimited | Computershare | Sodexo | Co-op |
| UCHP Reference | **S477446L** | **P20057457** | **34421443** | **UN1001C** | **00099049** | **0007937293** | **813204** | **85100474** |

You may need to quote our Ofsted registration numbers (see below) when arranging payment via these providers.

## 

## Ofsted Registrations

Playscheme is registered with Ofsted and full inspection reports and other information is available by searching our registration numbers in the Ofsted website. It should be noted that Ofsted inspections currently only include comment on the provision of the ‘Early Years Foundation Stage’ (EYFS) and whilst we work collaboratively with school’s to support the continuation of the delivery of this curriculum to our reception-class children during their holiday time, it is by no means our main purpose or fully reflective of the range of play opportunities we offer all of our children. The current registration numbers for UCHP are:

**UCHP ‘Red Team’ at Chesterton: EY347078**

**UCHP ‘Blue Team at St Mary’s: EY484450**

#### Fees

Sessions are charged as either full- or half- days, and full pricing information is available on the website\*.

**Fees for bookings made in advance**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Full Day | | Half Day | |
| First Child | Sibling | First Child | Sibling |
| Full Rate | £30.00 | £24.50 | £20.00 | £17.50 |
| Discounted Rate | £23.50 | £18.50 | £16.50 | £15.00 |
| College Staff Rate | £27.00 | £22.05 | £18.00 | £15.75 |
| Venue Rate Staff | £27.00 | £22.05 | £18.00 | £15.75 |

**Fees for bookings made after advanced period**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Full Day | | Half Day | |
| First Child | Sibling | First Child | Sibling |
| Full Rate | £32.50 | £27.00 | £22.50 | £20.00 |
| Discounted Rate | £26.00 | £21.00 | £19.00 | £17.50 |
| College Staff Rate | £29.50 | £24.55 | £20.50 | £18.25 |
| Venue Rate Staff | £29.50 | £24.55 | £20.50 | £18.25 |

\*Fees shown here are correct at time of publication. All fees are subject to change. Please see booking forms for current fees.Fees are set by the University of Cambridge Staff Childcare Committee in consultation with Playscheme staff and are reviewed annually.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Signed by Playscheme Co-ordinator |  |
| Date | 07/01/2020 |
| Review Date | 07/01/2021 |

# Risk Assessment Policy

We understand the importance of ensuring that systems are in place for checking that the University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme (UCHP) is a safe and secure place for children, staff and other visitors. Our risk assessment procedures are part of a continuous process to prevent any dangerous incidents taking place. They are the responsibility of all staff as part of their daily duties.

**COVID-19 AMENDMENT**

All UCHP risk assessments have been reviewed and modified to ensure they meet Government guidance with regard to COVID-19.

In accordance with our duties under the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, UCHP is required to undertake regular risk assessments and take any necessary action arising from these according to provisions set out in the Health and Safety policy and elsewhere.

The Playscheme Co-ordinator (with the support of the Site Co-ordinators) is responsible for making sure that risk assessments are completed, logged and effectively monitored. Reviews are conducted when there is any change to equipment or resources, any change to UCHP’s premises, or when the particular needs of a child or other visitor necessitates this.

The Playscheme Co-ordinator is further responsible for conducting any necessary reviews or making changes to UCHP’s policies or procedures in the light of any potential risks that they or other members of staff discover.

A visual inspection of entire premises (both indoor and outside), and any equipment used by UCHP, will be carried out daily. This will, ordinarily, be carried out by the Site Co-ordinators and Playworkers on arrival, before children arrive.

During the session, Playworkers will be vigilant and continuously aware of any potential risks to health and safety arising from the UCHP environment both inside and out and all surfaces and floors inside and out and all equipment used by children and Playworkers.

On discovering a hazard, Playworkers will take all steps necessary to make themselves, and any other people potentially affected, safe.

The Playscheme Co-ordinator is then responsible for ensuring that any necessary action is taken.

## Recording Accidents, Incidents and Dangerous Occurrences

All accidents, incidents and dangerous occurrences will be recorded either on the Incident Record or Accident Record Sheets on the same day as the event took place. The record will be kept on the Playscheme site until the end of Playscheme. After this, records will be kept in the Childcare Office anda copy sent to the University of Cambridge Health and Safety Division. UCHP accident records will be tracked and monitored in order to see regular occurrences or trends that necessitate action.

Records must contain:

* The time, date and nature of the incident, accident or dangerous occurrence
* Details of the people involved
* The type, nature and location of any injury sustained
* The action taken and by whom
* The signature of the member of staff who dealt with the event, any witnesses and countersignature by the parents of the children involved.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Signed by Playscheme Co-ordinator |  |
| Date | 07/01/2020 |
| Review Date | 07/01/2021 |

# Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

The University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme (UCHP) believes that children have the right to be completely secure from both the fear and reality of abuse and radicalisation, and we are committed to safeguarding all the children in our care from harm. Our policy applies to all people that work at UCHP including visiting practitioners providing activities or experiences and all service users.

COVID-19 AMENDMENTS

DP training is unlikely to take place during the period when COVID-19 measures are in place, therefore a DP who has been trained will continue to be classed as trained even if they miss their refresher training. DPs will continue to read and implement, as relevant, updates added to the Cambridgeshire Early Years and Childcare: Designated Person for Child Protection (PVI) Knowledge Hub and the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board communications and website.

**ATTENDANCE**

The setting is following the [attendance guidance issued by government](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-attendance-recording-for-educational-settings). Where a child is expected and does not arrive, UCHP will follow their attendance procedure and make contact with the family. If contact is not possible the DP must be informed. The DP will attempt a range of methods to contact the parent (Skype, FaceTime, through a relative etc.). If we are unable to make contact with a family about a child about whom we have concerns after a reasonable number of attempts, we may need to seek further advice about safe and well checks. The risk of COVID-19 **does not** **override** the duty on the setting to ensure children are safe.

# SUPPORTING CHILDREN IN THE SETTING

The pressures on children and their families at this time are significant. There may be heightened awareness of family pressures through being contained in a small area, poverty and financial or health anxiety. Supporting children’s wellbeing will be at the forefront of our approach and Playworkers will seek to provide reassurance as we manage the transition period. Playworkers will talk to children about the changes to their day in an age appropriate manner, acknowledge and listen to their anxieties and support them to understand the altered routines. Site Co-ordinators will pass on any concerns about the mental health of both [children](https://safeguarding.network/safeguarding-resources/specific-risks-children-additional-needs/mental-health/) and their [parents and carers](https://safeguarding.network/safeguarding-resources/parental-issues/parental-mental-ill-health/) by informing the DP.

We recognise that for some children, home may not be a safe space, and there may be children who are relieved to return to the setting. Payworkers have been reminded of the need to respond sensitively to children’s differing experiences during the period of closure. Playworkers have been asked to be particularly vigilant, as more children return to the setting, for signs and indicators that suggest a child may have experienced abuse or neglect. Playworkers have been trained about how to manage a disclosure from a child, and understand that any safeguarding concerns, including those that relate to the period of setting closure, must be referred immediately to a setting DP in the usual way.

Prior to children returning to the setting, parents and carers will be asked to ensure that all personal details held, such as emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available. At this time, parents and carers will also be asked to advise the setting if there are any changes regarding the child’s welfare, health and wellbeing that it would help the setting to be made aware of. Where the setting is aware of particular circumstances affecting a child or family, such as bereavement, a relationship breakdown or an incident of domestic violence this will be shared with Playworkers on a need-to-know basis so that children can be best supported.

**Maintaining Contact with Vulnerable Children Not Currently Attending**

UCHP recognise that some children will not be attending our setting due to current government restrictions. Other reasons for not attending may include self-isolation, shielding or parental choice.

* If UCHP is closed or vulnerable children are absent the Designated Person (DP) should contact other relevant professionals to make them aware and agree any further action required.
* If UCHP are aware currently registered children (2020/2021) are on a Child Protection Plan (CP), the DP should have daily contact, ideally by phone. If there are any concerns, the DP should contact the child’s social worker as normal.
* For children open to Social Care under Child in Need (CIN), the contact should be 2-3 times a week.
* If the child also attends school, the DP will liaise with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and agree who will make contact with children on CP or CIN Plans.
* For all other vulnerable children, the UCHP will contact the school the child attends DSL to establish a partnership and agree who will make contact to ensure the child and family are receiving regular welfare checks.
* In exceptional circumstances, where a phone call may not suffice there may need to be some face-to-face contact, consider using Skype or similar platform.

UCHP fully recognises the responsibility to have arrangements in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children. To achieve this UCHP will **‘Designate’** a **Child Protection lead** who has suitable experience, expertise and training, which is updated every two years. The DP is responsible for developing effective links with relevant agencies and co-operating as required with any enquiries by liaising with Social Care, the Local Children’s Safeguarding Board, Education Navigator at the MASH, the child’s School and OfSTED in any child protection matter. Currently, the Playscheme Co-ordinator is the lead designated practitioner; the Deputy Playscheme Co-ordinator, Playscheme Assistant, Playscheme Administrator and the Manager of Childcare Services are also trained in the role of DP. UCHP recognises that everyone has a crucial role to play in noticing indicators of possible abuse neglect or vulnerability to radicalisation and in referring them in the first instance to the Site Co-ordinator. The Site Co-ordinator is then responsible for notifying the concern to the DP. The DP will disclose any information about a child to Playworkers on a need to know basis only.

UCHP’s ‘Child Protection’ Procedures comply with all relevant legislation and other guidance or advice from the ‘Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board’ (CPSCB), a multi-agency forum set up to agree how the different services and professional groups should co-operate to safeguard children in that area, and for making sure that arrangements work effectively to bring about good outcomes for children. UCHP has regard for Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018). A copy of ‘What to do if you’re worried a child is being abused’ is available at the front desk on site.

## Prevention

UCHP has identified that good communication between children and a trusted adult helps to protect children. To achieve this we will establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure and are encouraged to talk, and are actively listened to. We will ensure that children know that there are adults in the setting whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty.

UCHP will follow ‘safer recruitment’ procedures and provide a detailed briefing of UCHP safeguarding to all Playworkers at induction. Playworkers must complete a 3 hour online Safeguarding training module prior to starting work for UCHP. This training will be updated every three years. The training will cover their personal responsibility, local procedures, the need to be vigilant in identifying cases of abuse and how to support and respond to a child who tells of abuse.

UCHP will ensure that all Playworkers know who the designated person (DP) is and how to pass on and record concerns; that they recognise their duty and feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice in regard to children and that such concerns are addressed sensitively and effectively in a timely manner in accordance with agreed Whistle Blowing policies.

## Promoting a protective ethos

UCHP prides itself on creating an ethos in which children feel secure, their viewpoints are valued, they are encouraged to talk and they are listened to. This is achieved in the following ways:

* All staff, including the Designated Persons, are trained regularly to ensure skills and knowledge are up-to-date.
* Staff know how to respond to child protection concerns.
* Contribution to an inter-agency approach to child protection by working effectively and supportively with other agencies.
* Raising children's awareness and actively promoting self-esteem building, so that children have a range of strategies and contacts to ensure their safety.
* Using personal safety programmes, such as Protective Behaviours, NSPCC PANTS campaign and the Early Years Service ‘Children’s Safety Matters’ training and resources.
* Working with parents to build an understanding of UCHP’s responsibility to the welfare of the children.
* Ensuring the relevant policies are in place, i.e. the use of mobile phones and cameras, behaviour management, intimate care, whistle-blowing, social networking.
* Being vigilant to the inappropriate behaviour of Playworkers or adults working with children and ensuring that all Playworkers know the allegations procedure.
* Playworkers acting as positive role models to children and young people.
* Ensuring Playworkers are aware of the need to maintain appropriate and professional boundaries in their relationships with children and parents/carers.

## Preventing unsuitable people from working with children and young people

UCHP has a duty to ensure that people looking after children are suitable to fulfil the requirements for their role. UCHP will follow safer recruitment practices including verifying qualifications and ensuring appropriate DBS and reference checks are undertaken. The setting will not allow people whose suitability has not been checked to have unsupervised contact with children.

Staff are expected to disclose any convictions, cautions, court orders, reprimands and warnings which may affect their suitability to work with children (weather received before or during their employment at the setting)

Vicky Cornwell (Playscheme Co-ordinator) and Sarah Garrison (Playscheme Administrator) have undertaken safer recruitment training

## Recognising Child Abuse

Child abuse manifests itself in a variety of different ways, some overt and others much less so. A person may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children and young people may be abused in a family or in an institution or community setting; by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. Signs and indicators of abuse may include: significant changes in children’s behaviour, deterioration in children’s well-being, unexplained marks, injuries or other signs of abuse or neglect, children’s comments during their play or otherwise which give cause for concern, patterns of absences or frequent absences and inappropriate behaviour displayed by Playworkers or another person working with children or parents/carers.

Physical Abuse: This involves hitting, shaking, throwing, burning, suffocating or any other physical harm. Deliberately causing a child’s ill health also constitutes physical abuse.

**Possible Physical Indicators of Physical Abuse:** Bruises/marks on soft parts of the body e.g. cheeks, forearm (in defence), hips, stomach, upper arms, shoulders and neck; bruises/marks that carry the imprint of an implement or hand; bite marks, burns or scalds; unexplained recurrent injuries, burns or bruises, untreated injuries.

**Possible Behavioural Indicators of Physical of Abuse:** Refusal to discuss injuries or improbable explanations; flinching from physical contact; acceptance of excessive punishment; pattern of absences which may serve to hide bruises or other physical injuries; wearing clothes that may cover bruises, particularly in hot weather; fear of undressing; aggression towards others; over compliant behaviour or a ‘watchful attitude’.

Sexual Abuse: This involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts. Showing children pornographic materials, sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways also constitutes sexual abuse.

**Possible Physical Indicators of Sexual Abuse:** anal, oral or vaginal soreness, unusual discharge, persistent urinary tract infection, tiredness, pregnancy or STD’s.

**Possible Behavioural Indicators of Sexual Abuse:** lethargy and listlessness, provocative sexual behaviour, overly affectionate behaviour which transgresses the usual boundaries of physical contact; sexual awareness inappropriate to a child’s age – shown, for example in drawings, language, games etc; attempts to teach other children about sexual activity; sexualises non sexualised objects or activities; regression to younger behaviour e.g bed wetting; refusing to stay with or avoid being left alone with certain people or go to certain places; frequent public masturbation; over-compliant behaviour; attempting to tell about the abuse through hints or clues sometimes followed by retraction; self-harm.

Emotional abuse: Varying degrees of emotional abuse are present in virtually all child protection incidents, but can also constitute abuse in its own right. Emotional abuse involves persistent or severe emotional ill treatment or torture causing, or likely to cause, severe adverse effects on the emotional stability of a child. Such behaviour may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless, unloved, or inadequate, or making them feel unnecessarily frightened or vulnerable.

**Possible Physical Indicators of Emotional Abuse:** Developmental delay – physical or cognitive; self-harm; sudden speech disorders; physical complaints with no medical basis.

**Possible Behavioural Indicators of Emotional Abuse:** Delays in intellectual development; continual self-deprecation; over reaction to mistakes; fearfulness; neurotic behaviour – obsessive rocking, thumb sucking etc; air of detachment with a ‘don’t care’ attitude; social isolation – does not join in and has few friends; desperate attention-seeking behaviour.

**Family or Parental Behaviour:** Mental ill health – suicide attempts, depression, threats; domestic abuse; alcohol and drug abuse; blames or puts child down; cold and rejecting; indifferent to child’s problems or welfare; withholds affection; shows preferential treatment when there is more than one child in the family.

Neglect: Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child’s basic physical, emotional or psychological needs and may have a severe impact on their health, development or emotional stability. Neglect may involve failing to provide adequate food, shelter or clothing for a child, or failing to adequately protect them from physical harm/ill health. Neglect can also manifest itself in a failure to meet a child’s basic emotional needs.

**Possible Physical Indicators of Neglect:** Constant hunger and tiredness; underweight or obesity; poor personal hygiene; inappropriate or poor state of clothing; poor skin or hair tone; untreated medical problems.

**Possible Behavioural Indicators of Neglect:** Social isolation; frequent lateness or non-attendance at Playscheme; destructive tendencies; poor relationships with peers; scavenging and scrounging.

**Parental Behaviour:** Neglect is often characterised by parents ‘omitting’ to care appropriately for their children and may include: leaving them at home when they are too young to care for themselves; exposing children to dangerous situations; putting their own needs before those of their children; leaving them with inappropriate carers; failure to provide adequate shelter, food or clothing.

Sexual Exploitation**:** Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

(Child Sexual Exploitation, Definition and Guide: DFE, 2017)

Sexual exploitation can take many different forms from the seemingly ‘consensual’ relationship to serious organised crime involving gangs and groups. Potential indicators of sexual exploitation will be addressed within Playworker training, including raising awareness with Playworkers that some young people who are being sexually exploited do not show any external signs of abuse and may not recognise it as abuse. Playworkers will follow the procedures outlined in this policy if concerns of child sexual exploitation arise.

## Children at Risk of Criminal Exploitation

Criminal exploitation of children is a form of harm that is a typical feature of county lines activity (County lines means groups or gangs using young people or vulnerable adults to carry and sell drugs from borough to borough, and across county boundaries. It is a tactic used by groups or gangs to facilitate the selling of drugs in an area outside of the area they live, reducing their risk of detection). Drug networks or gangs exploit children and young people to carry drugs and money from urban areas to suburban and rural areas. Exploitation can occur even if activity appears to be consensual. UCHP will address indicators of child criminal exploitation with Playworkers through training. The DP will complete the Safeguarding Partnership Board Exploitation Risk Assessment and Management Tool and refer to Children’s Social Care if there is a concern that a young person may be at risk of criminal exploitation. Playworkers will follow the procedures outlined in this policy if concerns of criminal exploitation arise.

## Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**:**

FGM is a cultural practice that is a form of child abuse in the UK and is illegal under the FGM Act 2003. FGM can happen to girls of any age and is also known as female genital cutting or female circumcision. It is the ritual removal of some or all of the external female genitalia. Health effects depend on the procedure, but can include recurrent infections, chronic pain, cysts, an inability to get pregnant, complications during childbirth and fatal bleeding. This practice typically occurs in children from more than 29 countries across Africa, parts of the Middle East, South East Asia and countries where migrants from FGM affected communities live, however, the above is not an exhaustive list. **Signs that may indicate a child is being prepared for or has had female genital mutilation include:** anxiety leading up to a family holiday – children may be taken abroad for the procedure this is also illegal; talk of a ‘special procedure’ or ‘party’ – a child may talk about a special ceremony that is going to take place, they may be unaware of what the special procedure is; extended absence – this could indicate that the procedure has already taken place. On the child’s return there may be a significant change in their behaviour; psychological effects – such as depression, anxiety and low self-esteem; and physical signs – problems going to the toilet, bladder discomfort or pain when sitting still. Playworkers must share any concerns about FGM, however small immediately as they will need to be reported with great urgency.

## Honour Based Violence (HBV):

#### HBV can be described as a collection of practices, which are used to control behaviour within families or other social groups to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and/or honour. It occurs around the world and cuts across many cultures and is most likely when a culture is heavily male dominated. HBV may include violence such as breast ironing, imprisonment, FGM, forced marriage or murder and can occur when perpetrators perceive that a relative has shamed the family and/or community by breaking their honour code. It is a violation of human rights and may take the form of domestic and/or sexual violence. **Potential warning signs may include** those signs similar to physical, sexual and emotional abuse.

## Forced Marriage:

#### A forced marriage is a marriage conducted without the valid consent of one or both parties, where some element of duress is a factor. Duress can include physical, psychological, sexual, financial and emotional pressure. A forced marriage is different from an arranged marriage, which is a respected tradition in many cultures, and where both parties give their consent. The following signs could be apparent in any person involved in the Playscheme including parents, children and Playworkers. **Potential warning signs include:** change in emotional or behavioural presentation, e.g. becoming anxious, depressed, frightened and emotionally withdrawn or exhibiting joy or excitement; evidence of self-harm, treatment for depression, attempted suicide, social isolation, eating disorders or substance abuse; evidence of family disputes/conflict, domestic violence/abuse or running away from home; extended absence from school/college, truancy, drop in academic performance, low motivation, excessive parental restriction and control of movements, and history of siblings leaving education early to marry; poor attendance and/or poor performance, parental control of income and limited career choices; family member raising concerns that a relative may be, or has been forced into marriage, or informing a professional that their relative is to be married; a family member suddenly disappearing; a family member asking a member of the Playworker team to sign a passport application form or visa immigration form; and a child being taken away from the Playscheme, or out of the country, without explanation.

## Domestic Abuse:

Domestic Abuse is defined as: ‘’any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse: Psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional’’. (Home Office, 2013). UCHP recognises that where there is Domestic Abuse in a family, the children/young person will always be affected; the longer the violence continues, the greater the risk of significant and enduring harm, which they may carry with them into their adult life and relationships.

UCHP will work in partnership with the Police and Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) to identify and provide appropriate support to children who have experienced domestic abuse; this scheme is called Operation Encompass.

In order to achieve this, CCC’s Education Safeguarding Team will share police information of all domestic abuse incidents if they know that one of the children attending our setting was present, with one of our Designated Person’s for Child Protection (DP). On receipt of any information, the DP will consider the appropriate support for the child.

The Operation Encompass information is stored in line with all other confidential safeguarding and child protection information. All information sharing and resulting actions will be undertaken in accordance with the ‘Cambridgeshire and Peterborough *Joint Agency Protocol for Domestic Abuse – Notifications to Schools, Colleges and Early Years settings*’.

## Peer on Peer Abuse and Sexual Violence and Harassment between Peers

Children and young people may be harmful to one another in a number of ways which would be classified

as peer on peer abuse.

Peer on peer abuse can include:

* Bullying (including cyberbullying)
* Physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling
* Sexual bullying
* Being coerced to send sexual images (sexting)
* Sexual assault
* Teenage relationship abuse.
* Upskirting

UCHP recognise that sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any age and sex. Sexual violence may include rape, assault by penetration or sexual assault. Sexual harassment refers to ‘unwanted conduct of a sexual nature’, such as sexual comments, sexual taunting or physical behaviour such as deliberately brushing against someone. Online sexual harassment may include non-consensual sharing of sexual images and videos, sexualised online bullying, unwanted sexual comments and messages, and sexual exploitation, coercion and threats.

UCHP will:

* Be clear that peer on peer abuse, sexual violence and sexual harassment will not be tolerated.
* Provide training for staff on how to manage a report of peer on peer abuse, sexual violence or sexual harassment.
* Make decisions on a case-by-case basis.
* Reassure victims that they are being taken seriously, offer appropriate support and take the wishes of the victim into account when decision making.
* Implement measures to keep the victim, alleged perpetrator and if necessary other children and staff members, safe. Record any risk assessments and keep them under review.
* Give consideration to the welfare of both the victim(s) and perpetrator(s) in these situations
* Liaise closely with external agencies, including police and social care, when required.

## Radicalisation (Prevent Duty):

UCHP recognise that young people may be vulnerable to new influences and potentially risky behaviours, influence from peers, influence from older people or the internet as they may begin to explore ideas and issues around their identity. We understand that children may actively search for content that is considered radical, or they could be persuaded to do so by others.

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, the Prevent Duty, places a duty on UCHP to keep children safe and prevent people being drawn into terrorism. UCHP is committed to help children and parents attending our setting to feel safe, welcome and that they belong. UCHP promotes the values of individual liberty and mutual respect, tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, the rule of law and democracy. To achieve this UCHP and its staff focus on personal, social and emotional development. We support children in developing a sense of right and wrong, valuing other views and challenging negative attitudes and stereotypes. Playworkers will be vigilant to harmful behaviours by influential adults in a child’s life and any extremist views or observations of behaviour that cause concern will be logged on a ‘Logging Concern’ form and shared with the Playscheme Co-ordinator immediately.

Potential warning signs include:

             A conviction that their religion, culture or beliefs are under threat and treated unjustly

             A tendency to look for conspiracy theories and distrust of mainstream media

             The need for identity and belonging

             Being secretive about who they’ve been talking to online and what sites they visit

             Becoming emotionally volatile.

             The child abruptly abandons friends and family members

             They stop participating in activities that used to occupy a lot of their time

             A growing hatred for those that don’t adhere to their beliefs.

On receiving information about a concern the Playscheme Co-ordinator will follow UCHP’s safeguarding procedures and advice will be sought from the local Police (101) by asking to speak to a prevent officer and Social Care. UCHP will then act upon advice given. UCHP may call the Department of Education’s dedicated telephone helpline (020 7340 7264). If a child is thought to be at immediate risk of harm the Playscheme Co-ordinator will contact the Police and Social Care highlighting the urgency of the situation.

## Children who have Family Members in Prison

UCHP is committed to supporting children and young people who have a parent or close relative in prison and will work with the family to find the best ways of supporting the child. UCHP recognises that children with family members in prison are at risk of poor outcomes including: poverty, stigma, isolation, poor mental health and poor attendance. UCHP will treat information shared by the family in confidence and it will be shared on a ‘need to know’ basis. UCHP will work with the family and the child to minimise the risk of the child not achieving their full potential.

Privately Fostered ChildrenPrivate fostering is when a child under the age of 16, (under 18 if disabled) is provided with care and accommodation by a person who is not a parent, person with parental responsibility for them or relative in their own home for 28 days or more. UCHP will follow the mandatory duty to inform the local authority of any ‘Private Fostering’ arrangements.

## Young Carers

UCHP recognises that children who are living in a home environment which requires them to act as a young carer for a family member or a friend who is ill, disabled, or misuses drugs or alcohol can increase their vulnerability and that they may need additional support and protection. UCHP will seek to identify young carers, offer additional support internally, signpost to external agencies, be particularly vigilant to the welfare of young carers and follow the procedures outlined in this policy, referring to Early Help or Social Care as required if concerns arise.

## Supporting the Child at Risk

UCHP recognises that children who are abused or witness violence may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth or to trust those around them. They may feel unhappiness, humiliation and some sense of self blame. We recognise that some children actually adopt abusive behaviours and that these children must be referred on for appropriate support and intervention. UCHP will endeavour to support the child through:

* Activities that encourage self-esteem self-motivation and resilence.
* UCHP ethos that actively promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and values people.
* UCHP’s Behaviour Policy is aimed at supporting children. All Playworkers will follow a consistent approach, which focuses on the behaviour of the child but does not damage the child’s sense of self-worth. UCHP will ensure that the child knows that some behaviour is unacceptable but she/he is valued and not to be blamed for any abuse which has occurred.
* Liaison with other agencies which support the child such as Social Care, the child’s School and the Locality Teams.
* A commitment to develop productive and supportive relationships with parents.
* Recognition that children living in a home environment where there is domestic violence, drug or alcohol abuse are vulnerable and in need of support and protection.
* Vigilantly monitoring children’s welfare, keeping records and notifying Social Care when appropriate to do so.

## Drug use and child protection

The discovery that a young person is misusing legal or illegal substances or reported evidence of their substance use is not necessarily sufficient in itself to initiate child protection proceedings, but UCHP will consider such action in the following situations where there is evidence or reasonable cause:

* To believe the young person’s drug misuse may cause him or her to be vulnerable to other abuse such as sexual abuse.
* To believe the young person’s drug related behaviour is a result of abusing or endangering pressure or incentives from others, particularly adults.
* To suspect that the misuse is being prompted by serious parent/carer drug misuse.

## Drug/alcohol misusing parents

Misuse of drugs and/or alcohol is strongly associated with the risk of significant harm to children, particularly when combined with other features such as domestic violence.

If the setting has concerns about drug and/or alcohol abuse by a child’s parents/carers they will follow appropriate procedures. This is particularly important if the following factors are present:

* Use of the family resources to finance the parent’s dependency, characterised by inadequate food, heat and clothing for the children
* Children exposed to unsuitable caregivers or visitors, e.g. customers or dealers
* The effects of drugs and/or alcohol leading to an inappropriate display of sexual and/or aggressive behaviour
* Chaotic drug and/or alcohol use leading to emotional unavailability, irrational behaviour and reduced parental vigilance
* Disturbed moods as a result of withdrawal symptoms or dependency
* Unsafe storage of drugs and/or alcohol or injecting equipment
* Drugs and/or alcohol having an adverse impact on the growth and development of the unborn child.

## Children with Special Educational Needs and/or Additional Needs

We recognise that, statistically, children with additional needs, special educational needs, emotional and behavioural difficulties and disabilities are most vulnerable to abuse. UCHP Playworkers who support with children with complex and multiple disabilities and/or emotional and behavioural problems should be particularly sensitive to signs of abuse.

If a child/children with emotional or behavioural difficulties or challenging behaviour attends UCHP, the Playworkers assigned to them will be supported to decide appropriate strategies that will reduce anxiety for the individual child and raise self-esteem as part of an overall behaviour support plan agreed with parents.

We are aware that children who may have communication difficulties, including those with English as an Additional Language are particularly vulnerable to abuse because they may be unable to express themselves to others. Such children will often exhibit changes in behaviour or signs and symptoms of abuse recognised by Playworkers with a good knowledge of the child.

Where necessary, UCHP will provide additional training to staff to use other communication systems, such as Makaton.

We promote high standards of practice, including ensuring that children know how to raise concerns, and have access to a range of adults with whom they can communicate.

Playworkers will only carry out intimate care for a child if assistance is required. Unless a child has a particular need, staff should not accompany children into the toilet cubicle, as stated in UCHP Intimate Care Policy.

## What to do if a child discloses

Playworkers need to be clear with children that they cannot promise to keep secrets that may result in the child’s safety being compromised. Playworkers must support the child that discloses by telling them they have made the right choice in telling someone and then passing the information onto the Site Co-ordinator who will inform the DP.

Not all child protection information results in a referral, but small pieces of information may be significant on their own to create a wider picture. All information should be recorded on a Logging Concern Form.

The DP will take advice from a child protection specialist when managing complex cases, using ‘what if’ conversations to establish if a referral needs to be made

UCHP will always share any information with the DP of the School the child attends if it is relevant in protecting the continued safety of the child. The child will be identified by name and class teacher. UCHP collects information about the School the child attends and their teacher to ensure when information is shared mistakes cannot be made about the identity of the child. If, in the situation there are two children of the same name in a school class, the child’s date of birth will also be given. UCHP will share information proportionately giving the School’s DP a brief overview of our concern and any advice given by Social Care. We will inform the DP whether a referral has been made or if we are monitoring the situation because the information UCHP logged, at this time, is not enough for a referral to be made. When this occurs, a full written log will be made justifying the reasons UCHP have shared the information, who it was shared with and the date and time it was shared.

If Playworkers feel that the incident has not been adequately followed up within the Playscheme setting, they have a professional responsibility to call Social Care themselves and share information in order to safeguard children.

If the child protection concern is with regard to a Playworker, the UCHP Whistle Blowing Procedure should be followed (see ‘Child Protection Whistleblowing’ policy).

## Third Party Information

Third party information is when anyone (other than those directly involved with UCHP) passes on information or expresses their concerns.

Information from a third party regarding suspicions of child abuse cannot be ignored. If the person imparting the information has concerns, they should be encouraged to contact Social Care. If they do not wish to do so, it should be explained to them that UCHP is obligated to. The concerns should be logged and any action taken recorded fully.

## Allegations against Playworkers or Volunteers

UCHP fosters a protective ethos whereby Playworkers must be alert to any inappropriate behaviours displayed by other Playworkers.

An allegation may relate to a person who works or volunteers with children who has:

* behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child
* possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child
* behaved towards a child or children in a what that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children

If an allegation is made against a Playworker or other member of staff, the following action will be taken (as ‘Allegation against a person who works or volunteers with children’ flowchart and guidance):

The setting will ensure the immediate safety of the children.

* The setting will not start to investigate but will immediately contact the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO): 01223 727967.
* If the LADO decides the matter is a child protection case, external/internal agencies (e.g. police) will be informed by the LADO and the setting will act upon the advice given to ensure that any investigation is not jeopardised.
* The setting will notify Ofsted of a significant event
* It may be necessary for the employer to suspend the alleged perpetrator. Suspension is a neutral act to allow a thorough and fair investigation.

If it is agreed that the matter is not a child protection case, the setting will investigate the matter themselves.

The incident will be factually recorded on a ‘Logging a Concern’ form stating the actions taken. It may be necessary for UCHP to refer to its Playworker disciplinary procedure regarding suspensions and exclusions following advice sought from the LADO.

UCHP also has the right to seek professional advice from Employment Law specialists.

## Record Keeping

The setting will keep clear, detailed written records of concern about children using the Logging Concern Form, even where there is no need to refer the matter to Social Care immediately.

The designated person (DP) will ensure that all records are kept in a secure location.

A written log will be made if UCHP has shared concerns relating to a child with another setting involved in the child’s care justifying the reasons UCHP have shared the information, who it was shared with and the date and time it was shared.

If a child leaves our setting their protection files will be kept in a secure archive for 25 years from the child’s date of birth.

## Confidentiality and Information Sharing

The designated person (DP) will ensure confidentiality protocols are adhered to and information is shared appropriately with regard to the documentation from the Department of Education Guidance to Information Sharing July 2018. If in any doubt about confidentiality, Playworkers will refer to the UCHP Confidentiality Policy. The DP is aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children. A flowchart detailing when and how UCHP will share information can be found in the Confidentiality Policy.

## Communication with Parents

UCHP will undertake appropriate discussion with parents prior to the involvement of another agency, unless the circumstances may put the child at further risk of harm. If in any doubt, the Playscheme Co-ordinator will seek advice from Social Care.

When undertaking discussions with parents, UCHP will record this on the Log of Concern form detailing exactly what discussion took place. If a decision is made not to discuss the matter with parents, the reason why not will also be recorded. (Circumstances may include if the DP is unable to or cannot be reasonably expected to gain consent from the individual, or if gaining consent could place a child at risk of harm such as potential physical or sexual abuse).

Parents do not have an automatic right to access child welfare records and consideration will be given as to what the consequences of information sharing might be (in line with Information Sharing Guidance, 2018). Unless it would place the child at risk of significant harm, parents will be informed that a record of our concerns has been made.

UCHP will ensure that parents have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the setting and Playworkers. This is set out in the terms and conditions of the registration form. A copy of this policy will be made available to parents to view onsite or to access via UCHP website. The DP will undertake appropriate discussions with parents prior to any involvement of another agency, unless the circumstances will put the child at risk of further harm.

## When a child leaves or moves to another setting.

If UCHP becomes aware that a child will be leaving our setting their individual child welfare file will be transferred to the receiving school or setting using the following protocol:

* The file will be marked ‘Confidential, Addressee Only’ and sent to the Designated Person, if known, of the receiving setting/school. The file will be delivered by hand if possible; otherwise sent by delivery that can be tracked and signed for.
* The setting will contact the receiving setting/school by telephone to make them aware that there is a child welfare file, and once sent, ask them to confirm as soon as possible that they have received the file. The setting will keep a record that the file has been received in order to be able to identify its location.
* Parents will be made aware that the child welfare records will be transferred, unless this would place the child at risk of acute harm.
* Due to the nature of UCHP a copy of transferred records will be kept until a child reaches the age of 25.
* If individual child welfare files cannot be transferred for any reason, the setting will archive them for 25 years from the child’s date of birth.
* All actions and decisions will be led by what is considered to be in the best interests of the child

## Playworkers Support and Training

UCHP is committed to ensuring that it meets its responsibilities in respect of child protection through the provision of support and training to Playworkers. Therefore, UCHP will ensure that:

* All Playworkers must complete child protection training and will be vigilant to signs and evidence of physical, sexual and emotional abuse or neglect
* All Playworkers are carefully recruited, have verified references. A DBS check is carried out during the initial induction process within the office. If a Playworker has a current DBS check and is registered with the update service, then a check will be carried out to confirm the cleared status of the Playworkers current DBS. All Playworkers are given a copy of the Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy during their induction, and have its implications explained to them.
* All Playworkers will ensure confidentiality protocols are adhered to and information is shared appropriately and seek advice from the DP if needed
* All Playworkers receive regular training and supervision in child protection issues and are provided with any relevant information and guidance
* All Playworkers are provided with supervision and management support commensurate with their responsibilities in relation to child protection, and their requirement to maintain caring and safe relationships with children
* All Playworkers are aware of the main indicators of child abuse
* All Playworkers are aware of their statutory requirements in respect of the disclosure or discovery of child abuse and the procedure for doing so. All students and volunteers are instructed to report the disclosure or discovery of abuse to one of the DPs.
* UCHP will take appropriate action in relation to the findings of any investigation into allegations of abuse, consistent with its duties to protect the safety of children and uphold fair processes for Playworkers, students and volunteers.
* Any Playworker under investigation for the alleged abuse of a child, will be subject to the provisions of the Playworker Disciplinary Procedures.
* UCHP will display and follow the ‘What to do if you’re worried a Child Is Being Abused’ flowchart.

## Safe Caring

All Playworkers have received a copy of UCHP’s Child Protection Procedures and have had access to appropriate training and guidance in the principles of safe caring. To this end:

* Every effort will be made to avoid times when Playworkers are left alone with a child. If Playworkers are left alone with a child, the door of the room should be kept open and another member of Playworker staff should be informed
* If a child makes inappropriate physical contact with a Playworker this will be recorded fully on a ‘Logging a Concern’ form, which will be passed to the DP immediately.
* Playworkers will never carry out a personal task for children that they can do for themselves. Where this is essential, Playworkers will help a child whilst being accompanied by a colleague. Unless a child has a particular need, Playworkers should not accompany children into the toilet. Playworkers are aware that this and other similar activities could be misconstrued. If a Playworker helps a child in the toilet area this will be documented on an ‘Intimate Care’ form.
* Playworkers will be mindful of how and where they touch children, given their age and emotional understanding. Unnecessary or potentially inappropriate physical contact will be avoided.

The following code of conduct must be applied at all times (for the full list please refer to the Playworker Policy.

## Code of conduct

This code of conduct applies to all workers, visitors and service users.

1. All Playworkers are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a professional, courteous, helpful and consistent manner.
2. Playworkers are not permitted to contact the children or parents of UCHP outside of Playscheme including through social media. If a child attempts to make contact with a Playworker outside of Playscheme then this information must be passed onto the Playscheme Co-ordinator immediately.
3. Playworkers must inform us if they have a relationship with any of the children outside of the Playscheme prior to commencing work or as soon as they become aware of it. Depending on the nature of the relationship, the Playscheme Co-ordinator may decide to take action such as moving the Playworker to a different site.
4. Playworkers are not allowed to babysit children outside of Playscheme, except in exceptional circumstances and at the permission of the Playscheme Co-ordinator
5. Playworkers are expected to display both knowledge and understanding of child protection, multi-cultural issues and a commitment to treating all children as individuals and with equal concern and respect.
6. Playworkers will have regard for wearing appropriate clothes and shoes when working with children and with awareness of health and safety issues.
7. Personal mobiles should be switched off and not used during working hours. If Playworkers do need to receive an emergency call, the person calling them should use the main UCHP site mobile number.
8. Under no circumstances should any arguments or disagreements between Playworkers occur in the presence of children or parents.
9. No smoking, alcohol or drug use is allowed on UCHP premises.
10. No bullying, swearing, harassment or victimisation will be tolerated on UCHP premises.
11. Offensive behaviour such as sexist or racist language or harassment will not be tolerated.
12. Physical contact between children and Plaworkers must be kept to an appropriate level. Contact such as kissing, prolonged cuddling or allowing a child to sit on a Playworkers lap for a prolonged period of time is not allowed.
13. Touching a child’s private area (genitals, inner thigh, bottoms or breasts) is not allowed. Exceptions are made in the circumstances of a first aid injury that requires attention or if intimate care is needed. In these instances the care given will be recorded on either the accident form or an intimate care record and a minimum of two Playworkers must be present at all times. If a child does not wish for support to be given in this way, be it first aid (unless the injury is life or death) or intimate care, then the Playworker will support the child in self-care. A child’s parents and the Playscheme Co-ordinator will also be called and an alternative solution sought.
14. All Playworkers are expected to treat everyone respectfully at all times and inappropriate behaviour may lead to disciplinary action.
15. Playworkers must not be left on their own with children, there must be a minimum of two Playworkers present in all areas.

## Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices

UCHP are mindful that practitioners have a duty of care to ensure that children are protected from potential harm both within and beyond the physical and virtual boundaries of our setting. As such UCHP understand that mobile phones and devices are a part of everyday society, and in recent times this technology has been used inappropriately to harm children posing a risk to their safety and wellbeing.

Playworkers and visitors to UCHP must not have their personal phone during the Playscheme day when working directly with the children. Mobile phones may be used in the Playworkers designated break times, away from the children. At all other times, mobile telephones should be stored in the staff room. Playworkers are able to wear apple watches (or similar device) but it must only be used for time purposes. Watches that connect to the internet or a mobile phone must be turned onto aeroplane mode whilst at work with the children. Playworkers not adhering to this policy could face disciplinary action.

We recommend that children do not bring mobile phones or electronic devices to Playscheme. However, to reflect our belief that when used appropriately and safely, technology can support learning, we may enable the children to use electronic devices at certain times. At the same time, we do all we can to ensure that technology is used appropriately and that children are safeguarded against all risks attached to technology. While it is not possible to completely eliminate risk, any e-safety concerns that do arise will be dealt with quickly to ensure that children and staff adhere to safe practices and continue to be protected. Children may not use their mobile phone or other internet enabled or electronic devices at Playscheme unless informed they may do so and if they are supervised. For example, this may be allowed for those children with access to the ‘Over 11’s Room’. In this case, use will be in a designated area and supervised by a member of the Playwork team. It will be a requirement that mobile phones and electronic devices are signed into the Playscheme on arrival and 3G or 4G internet services must be disabled.

It is important that children and young people receive consistent messages about the safe use of technology and are able to recognise and manage the risks posed in both the real and the virtual world.

Terms such as ‘e-safety’, ‘online’, ‘communication technologies’ and ‘digital technologies’ refer to all fixed and mobile technologies that adults and children may encounter, now and in the future, which allow them access to content and communications that could raise issues or pose risks to their well-being. Information will be shared with children on the subject of e-safety through displays and Children’s meeting discussions.

UCHP will ensure that each site have a number of trip phones to ensure Playworkers do not use their own personal mobile phones when off site with the children. Playworkers may take their personal mobile phones on a trip. However, they must remain in the Playworkers bag at all times. On a trip a Playworker may use their mobile phone at designated break times when they are away from the children. Personal mobiles may also be used in an emergency situation. An emergency situation constitutes being lost or separated from the group, a first aid emergency or if a trip phone malfunctions.

UCHP has a mobile for incoming and outgoing calls. This number may be given by Playworkers as a work/emergency contact number for incoming calls only.

Where there is a suspicion that the material on a mobile phone may be unsuitable and may constitute evidence relating to a criminal offence, the ‘Allegations of Abuse’ process will be followed. Playworkers and visitors will remain responsible for their own property and will bear the responsibility of any losses.

## Cameras and Recording Equipment

UCHP provides a camera for staff and children to use to support the activities for children and this must only be used for work purposes. Playworkers and visitors must not use their personal cameras to take photos of the children at Playscheme. UCHP will remain vigilant and ensure that only children with parental consent have their photos taken. To ensure the appropriate use of this equipment, and to safeguard children only the camera and recording equipment belonging to UCHP may be used to take appropriate and relevant images of children, such as events, activities and to support developmental observations. It is not appropriate to take photos of bruising or injuries on a child for child protection purposes; these should be drawn onto a body map. Any photos of the children must be used in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation 2018 and only if parental and child consent has been given. Parents are able to give or refuse consent via the Registration Form.

Playworkers and children are not permitted to take photos of anybody without that persons expressed permission and only on cameras supplied by UCHP for the purposes of recording play activities.

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## Child Protection Whistle Blowing Policy

Playworkers must acknowledge their individual responsibilities to bring matters of concern to the attention of the Playscheme Co-ordinator, the Manager of Childcare Services and/or relevant agencies. Although this can be difficult it is particularly important where the welfare of children may be at risk.

You may be the first to recognise that something is wrong but may not feel able to express your concern out of a feeling that this would be disloyal to colleagues or you may fear harassment or victimisation. These feelings, however natural, must never result in a child or young person continuing to be unnecessarily at risk. Remember it is often the most vulnerable children or young people who are targeted. These children need someone like you to safeguard their welfare.

UCHP will not tolerate harassment or victimisation and will take action to protect Playworkers when they raise a concern in good faith. UCHP will do it’s best to protect a whistle blower’s identity when a concern is raised and a Playworker does not wish their identity to be disclosed. However, if the concern raised needs to be addressed through another procedure, the worker may be required to provide a signed statement as part of the evidence. In some circumstances the setting may have to disclose the identity of the worker without their consent; this will be discussed with the Playworker first. UCHP will ensure that appropriate advice and support is made available to the Playworker raising the concern. Any person raising a concern will be kept informed of the progress and outcome of any investigation. UCHP will not tolerate malicious allegations, which may be considered a disciplinary offence.

*Don’t think what if I am wrong – think what if I am right*

**Reasons for whistle blowing**

* Each individual has a responsibility for raising concerns about unacceptable practice or behaviour
* To prevent the problem worsening or widening
* To protect or reduce risks to others
* To prevent becoming implicated yourself

**What stops people from whistle blowing?**

* Starting a chain of events which spirals
* Disrupting the work or project
* Fear of getting it wrong
* Fear of repercussions or damaging careers
* Fear of not being believed

**How to raise a concern**

* You should voice your concerns, suspicions or uneasiness as soon as you feel you can. The earlier a concern is expressed the easier and sooner it is possible for action to be taken
* Try to pinpoint what practice is concerning you and why
* Approach someone you trust and who you believe will respond
* Make sure you get a satisfactory response – don’t let matters rest
* Put your concerns in writing on a ‘Logging a Concern’ or ’Logging an Incident’ form
* Discuss your concerns with the Playscheme Co-ordinator or Manager of Childcare Services
* A member of staff is not expected to prove the truth of an allegation

but will need to demonstrate sufficient grounds for the concern

* The Playscheme Co-ordinator or Manager of Childcare Services will undertake an investigation into your concerns and offer you support

**Investigation**

The action taken will depend on the nature of the concern. All matters raised will be thoroughly investigated internally (unless procedures set out in the Safeguarding Policy supersede this). Initially meetings will be arranged with the Playworker who has raised the concern and, separately, any individuals involved. Based on the discussions at these meetings, a decision will then be made to determine whether an investigation is appropriate and if so what form it will take. Concerns or allegations that raise issues which fall within the scope of other policies will be addressed under those procedures. Playworkers raising the concern will be informed about how the matter was investigated, conclusions drawn from the investigation and who they should contact if they be unhappy with the response. If the concern raised involves the Playscheme Co-ordinator, then the Manager of Childcare Services will carry out any investigation necessary.

**People to contact**

Playscheme Co-ordinator - 07985 735725 (during Playscheme) or 01223 764186 (during term time)

Deputy Playscheme Co-ordinator - 07377 944519 (during Playscheme) or 01223 330766 (during term time)

Manager of Childcare Services – 01223 765305

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| --- |
| Safeguarding Flowchart 2020 |

Discuss with the setting manager or DP

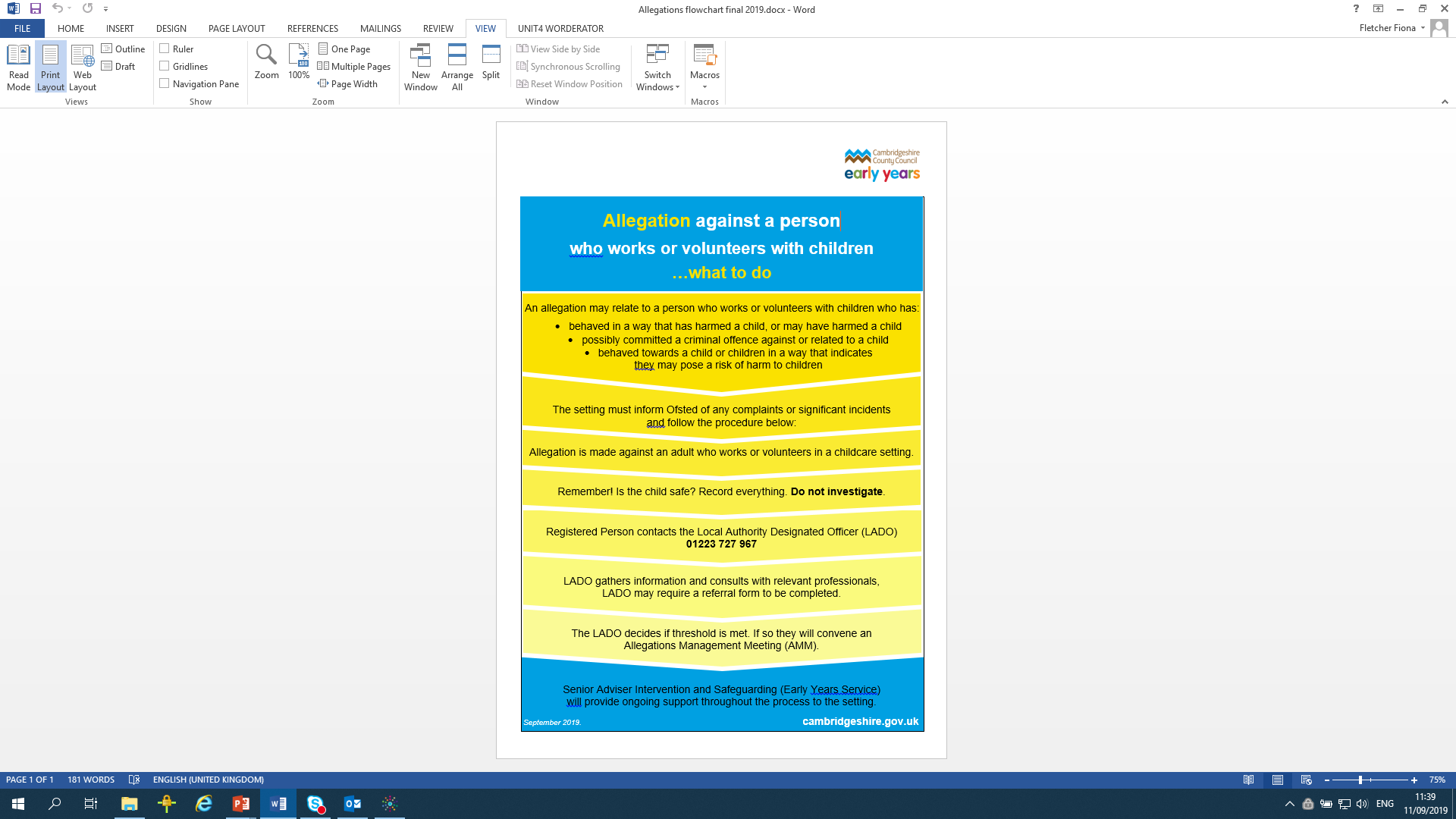
Follow the Allegation against a person who works or volunteers with children Flow Chart and Guidance (Sept 2019)

Concern logged and passed immediately to the Designated Person (DP) for Child Protection

No safeguarding concern, but emerging needs of the child indicate that additional services or support may be required

Allegation made against member of staff

Safeguarding concern or concern about a child’s welfare



Manager/SENCO or DP will complete an Early Help Assessment and contact the Early Help Hub for further advice: **01480 376666**

DP will decide what action to take, which may include a referral to Children’s Social Care

**0345 045 5203**

Manager or DP will complete an Early Help Assessment or contact the Early Help Hub for further advice 01480 376666

If the DP is unavailable or not contactable, for any reason, and you have immediate concerns about a child’s welfare, contact Children’s Social Care: **0345 045 5203**

# Useful Contact Numbers

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Children’s Social Care** 8am-5:30pm (Mon-Thur) 8am-4:30pm (Fri)  Emergency Duty Team (out of hours)  Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)  (8am -5.30pm Mon-Thurs and 8am-4.30pm Fri)  Emergency Duty Team (out of hours) | 0345 045 5203  01733 234724  0345 045 1362  01733 234724 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Early Help Hub** | 01480 376666 |
|  |  |
| **Local Authority Early Years Safeguarding Manager** | 01223 714760 |
|  |  |
| **Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)** | 01223 727967 |
|  |  |
| **Ofsted** | **0300 123 1231** |
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| **Education Safeguarding Team**: ecps.general@cambridgeshire.gov.uk |

## Designated People at Playscheme

**Designated lead person – Vicky Cornwell (Playscheme Co-ordinator) 07985 735725 (during Playscheme) or 01223 764186 (during term time)**

**Designated persons on site – Harriet Chillingworth (Playscheme Deputy Co-ordinator) Sarah Garrison (Playscheme Administrator) Georgina Lawrence and Abi Whitfield (from Easter 2020) (Playscheme Assistant)**

# Designated person in the central office – Sue Davis (Manager of Childcare Services)

# 01223 765305 [sue.davis@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:sue.davis@admin.cam.ac.uk)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Signed by Playscheme Co-ordinator |  |
| Date | 07/01/2020 |
| Review Date | 07/01/2021 |

# Sick Children and Accidents Policy

University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme (UCHP) is committed to dealing efficiently and effectively with illnesses and emergencies that may arise while children are in our care, and helping to keep all Playworkers and children safe from infectious and communicable diseases.

COVID-19 AMENDMENTS

During these unprecedented times, UCHP will be following Government Guidelines.

### UCHP WILL MINIMISE CONTACT WITH INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE UNWELL

This means if a member of the UCHP team or child has or are showing symptoms of, coronavirus (COVID-19) (a new continuous cough, a high temperature, or a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell - anosmia), or have someone in their household who is, they should not attend Playscheme. Should this happen, please let us know via telephone so that we can follow NHS track and trace procedures. If symptoms become apparent you should arrange to have a test to check if you have coronavirus.

THE PROCEDURE UCHP WILL FOLLOW IF A CHILD, YOUNG PERSON OR PLAYWORKER BECOMES UNWELL WITH SYMPTOMS OF CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) AND NEEDS TO BE CARED FOR UNTIL THEY CAN RETURN HOME

If anyone at UCHP develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19): a high temperature, new and persistent cough or a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), however mild, their parent or next of kin will be called. They will be advised to self-isolate for at least 10 days from when the symptoms started; or if they are not experiencing symptoms but have tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) they should self-isolate for at least 10 days starting from the day the test was taken.

If they have tested positive whilst not experiencing symptoms, but develop symptoms during the isolation period, they should restart the 10 day isolation period from the day they develop symptoms.

If a child is awaiting collection, they will be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, and be given appropriate adult supervision. If it is not possible to isolate them, they will be taken to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.

If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they will use a separate bathroom. The bathroom will be cleaned and disinfected using disinfectant cleaning products before being used by anyone else.

PPE will be worn by Site Co-ordinators caring for the child while they await collection

In an emergency, UCHP will call 999 particularly if it is felt they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk.

Any member of the Playwork team who has helped someone with symptoms, and any children or young people who have been in close contact with them, do not need to go home to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms or they are later advised to do so by NHS test and trace or the local [PHE health protection team](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contacts-phe-health-protection-teams).

Parents will be informed as soon as viably possible if their child has been in contact with someone who has potential symptoms of COVID-19. They will also be informed if someone at UCHP has tested positive.

UCHP will ensure the Site Coordinators or Playworkers assisting unwell children will wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact. The affected area will then be thoroughly cleaned to reduce the risk of passing the infection on to others.

Site Co-ordinators or Playworkers carrying out day to day first aid will not need to use PPE equipment unless they feel it necessary or the person they are treating has COVID-19 related symptoms.

First Aid certificates that expired in March 2020 will be valid until 25 November 2020 as announced by Ofsted and HSE.

For further information please refer to Playscheme COVID-19 Policy

## First Aid

UCHP recognises its responsibilities in providing adequate and appropriate equipment, facilities and personnel to enable suitable first aid to be given at the Playscheme.

UCHP has a number of designated Playworkers responsible for First Aid and resuscitation. These Playworkers have an up to date First Aid certificate which includes first aid training for infants and young children and is a minimum of 12 hours. The certificate is updated every 3 years.

Playworkers at UCHP are not medically trained professionals, therefore if an incident occurs whereby a Site Co-ordinator deems it necessary that a child should seek further medical assistance, the child’s parent will be called and asked to collect their child. In a medical emergency an ambulance will be called.

The First Aid box will be regularly checked to ensure its contents are up to date, in good condition and fulfil the criteria set out in the Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981.

The location of the First Aid box, and the names of any qualified first-aiders, will be clearly displayed around UCHP premises.

A First Aid kit will be taken on all off site visits or outings. This is the responsibility of the designated First Aider, or where this is not possible, trip leader.

All parents must complete and sign the ‘UCHP Registration’ document, consenting and empowering UCHP to give permission for emergency medical treatment for their child in the event of a major accident or illness.

## In the Event of a Major Accident or illness

* A First Aider will be notified and take responsibility for deciding upon the appropriate action, this may include seeking advice from the non-emergency NHS hotline 111
* A First Aider will assess the situation and decide whether the child needs to go straight to hospital or whether they can safely wait for their parent to arrive
* The Playscheme Co-ordinator will be contacted as soon as possible after the incident has occurred
* If the child needs to go straight to hospital, an ambulance will be called. The parent will also be contacted. UCHP will accompany the child to the hospital and will consent to medical treatment being given (as authorised in the ‘UCHP Registration’ Form)
* The Child’s medical form (if applicable) and a copy of the accident form should be taken to hospital
* The Playscheme Co-ordinator will ensure a follow up phone call is made to the parent enquiring about the child’s condition and what if any follow up treatment was given at the hospital
* All such accidents or incidents will be recorded in detail and logged on an ‘Injury Report’ Form. Parents will be asked to sign in the relevant section to acknowledge the incident or accident and any action taken by UCHP and its Playworkers
* The Playscheme Co-ordinator and other relevant Playworkers should consider whether the accident or incident highlights any actual or potential weaknesses in UCHP’s policies or procedures, and act accordingly, making suitable adjustments where necessary
* Parents will be made fully aware of the details of any incidents involving their child’s health and safety, and any actions taken by UCHP and its Playworkers
* The Playscheme Co-ordinator will report the incident to the University of Cambridge Health and Safety Advisor, within 3 working days and a decision will be made as to whether the accident is RIDDOR reportable. If so, the University of Cambridge Health and Safety Advisor will be responsible for reporting the incident to RIDDOR, a copy will be given to the Playscheme Co-ordinator.
* The Playscheme Co-ordinator will inform the University of Cambridge Insurance Manager of the incident.

The Playscheme Co-ordinator will notify Ofsted within 14 days of the incident occurring.

## In the Event of a Minor Accident, Incident or Illness

A designated First Aider will be notified and take responsibility for deciding upon any appropriate action.

* If the child is judged to be able to safely remain at UCHP, the First Aider will remove the child from the activities and, if appropriate, treat the illness /injury themselves
* If the child is feeling sufficiently better, they will be resettled back into the activities, but will be kept under close supervision for the remainder of the session.
* At the end of the session, the Site Co-ordinator will fully inform the parent of the illness accident and any treatment given unless it is a serious head bump, in this instance the parent will be informed immediately as a precaution.
* If the injury cannot be treated by a First Aider, but does not warrant hospitalisation (or the child continues to feel unwell or requests to go home) the parent will be contacted immediately and asked to collect their child. Until the parent arrives, the child will be kept under close supervision and as comfortable as possible
* All such accidents and incidents will be recorded in detail and logged on an ‘Injury Report’ sheet. Parents should sign to acknowledge the incident and any action taken.
* The Playscheme Co-ordinator and any other relevant Playworkers should consider whether the accident or incident highlighted any actual or potential weaknesses in UCHPs policies or procedures, and make suitable adjustments if necessary.

In circumstances where no designated First-Aider is present, the Playscheme Co-ordinator will assume all responsibilities, or nominate an appropriately trained replacement.

If a child has had to go home prematurely due to illness, they should remain at home until they are better for at least 24 hours, or according to the times set out in the infectious and communicable diseases section below. If a Playworkers becomes ill at work, similar restrictions on their return may apply.

## When to call a Parent/Carer

A courtesy call to a child’s parent or carer will be made if any of the following occur:

* The child is in significant amount of pain
* The injury has resulted in a swelling
* The injury is a deep or wide cut that could need medical attention
* There is a significant amount of bruising to the injured area
* The child has a significant head injury
* The child is unwilling to move the injured body part
* The child wants to speak to their parent or carer
* The first aider feels the parent or carer needs to be informed immediately

The aim of the call is to inform the parent of the accident that has occurred, and to give the parent the opportunity to decide what they feel the next course of action should be. If the Site Co-ordinator feels that the child needs to be collected or further medical attention should be sought the parent will be advised to collect their child.

## Infectious and Communicable Diseases

If any infectious or communicable disease is detected on UCHP’s premises, UCHP will inform parents in writing as soon as possible. RIDDOR (where relevant) and Ofsted will also be informed of any infectious or communicable diseases discovered on the UCHP’s premises.

## Head lice

When a case of head lice is discovered at UCHP, the situation will be handled sensitively. The child concerned will not be isolated from other children, and there is no need for them to be excluded from activities or sessions at UCHP.

When the child concerned is collected, their parent will be informed in a sensitive manner.

Parents will be informed as quickly as possible of the head lice but the child concerned will not be mentioned. Parents will be given advice and guidance on treating head lice.

Playworkers should check themselves regularly for lice and treat whenever necessary.

## Rashes and Skin Infections

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Condition** | **Recommended period to be kept away from Playscheme** | **Comments** |
| Athlete’s foot | None | Athlete’s foot is not a serious condition.  Treatment is recommended |
| Chickenpox | Five days from the onset of rash | *SEE: Vulnerable Children and Female Staff –*  *Pregnancy* |
| Cold sores,  (Herpes simplex) | None | Avoid kissing and contact with the sores.  Cold sores are generally mild and self-limiting |
| German measles  (rubella)\* | Six days from onset of rash | Preventable by immunisation (MMR x 2 doses).  *SEE: Female Staff – Pregnancy* |
| Hand, foot and  mouth | None | Contact your local HPU if a large number  of children are affected. Exclusion may be  considered in some circumstances |
| Impetigo | Until lesions are crusted and  healed, or 48 hours after  commencing antibiotic treatment | Antibiotic treatment speeds healing and  reduces the infectious period |
| Measles\* | Four days from onset of rash | Preventable by vaccination (MMR x 2).  *SEE: Vulnerable Children and Female Staff –*  *Pregnancy* |
| Molluscum  contagiosum | None | A self-limiting condition |
| Ringworm | Exclusion not usually required | Treatment is required |
| Roseola (infantum) | None | None |
| Scabies | Child can return after first treatment | Household and close contacts require treatment |
| Scarlet fever\* | Child can return 24 hours after  commencing appropriate  antibiotic treatment | Antibiotic treatment recommended for the  affected child |
| Slapped cheek/fifth  disease. Parvovirus B19 | None | *SEE: Vulnerable Children and Female Staff –*  *Pregnancy* |
| Shingles | Exclude only if rash is weeping  and cannot be covered | Can cause chickenpox in those who are not  immune i.e. have not had chickenpox. It  is spread by very close contact and touch.  If further information is required, contact  your local HPU. *SEE: Vulnerable Children and*  *Female Staff – Pregnancy* |
| Warts and verrucae | None | Verrucae should be covered in swimming  pools, gymnasiums and changing rooms |

## Diarrhoea and Vomiting Illness

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Condition** | **Recommended period to be kept away from Playscheme** | **Comments** |
| Diarrhoea and/or  vomiting | 48 hours from last episode of  diarrhoea or vomiting |  |
| *E. coli* O157  VTEC  Typhoid\* [and  paratyphoid\*]  (enteric fever)  Shigella  (dysentery) | Should be excluded for 48  hours from the last episode of  diarrhoea  Further exclusion may be  required for some children  until they are no longer  excreting | Further exclusion may be required for young  children under five and those who have difficulty  in adhering to hygiene practices  This guidance may also apply to some contacts  who may require microbiological clearance  Please consult your local HPU for further advice |
| Cryptosporidiosis | Exclude for 48 hours from the  last episode of diarrhoea | Exclusion from swimming is advisable for two  weeks after the diarrhoea has settled |

## Respiratory Infection

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Condition** | **Recommended period to be kept away from Playscheme** | **Comments** |
| Flu (influenza) | Until recovered | *SEE: Vulnerable Children* |
| Tuberculosis\* | Always consult your local HPU | Requires prolonged close contact for spread |
| Whooping cough\*  (pertussis) | Five days from commencing  antibiotic treatment, or 21  days from onset of illness if no  antibiotic treatment | Preventable by vaccination. After treatment,  non-infectious coughing may continue for many  weeks. Your local HPU will organise any contact  tracing necessary |

## Other Infections

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Condition** | **Recommended period to be kept away from Playscheme** | **Comments** |
| Conjunctivitis | None | If an outbreak/cluster occurs, consult your local  HPU |
| Glandular fever | None |  |
| Head lice | None | Treatment is recommended only in cases where  live lice have been seen |
| Hepatitis A\* | Exclude until seven days after  onset of jaundice (or seven  days after symptom onset if no  jaundice) | In an outbreak of hepatitis A, your local HPU will  advise on control measures |
| Hepatitis B\*, C\*,  HIV/AIDS | None | Hepatitis B and C and HIV are blood borne viruses  that are not infectious through casual contact.  For cleaning of body fluid spills. *SEE: Good*  *Hygiene Practice* |
| Meningococcal  meningitis\*/  septicaemia\* | Until recovered | Meningitis C is preventable by vaccination. There  is no reason to exclude siblings or other close  contacts of a case. Your local HPU will advise on  any action needed |
| Meningitis\* due to  other bacteria | Until recovered | Hib and pneumococcal meningitis are  preventable by vaccination. There is no reason  to exclude siblings or other close contacts of a  case. Your local HPU will give advice on any action  needed |
| Meningitis viral\* | None | Milder illness. There is no reason to exclude  siblings and other close contacts of a case.  Contact tracing is not required |
| MRSA | None | Good hygiene, in particular handwashing  and environmental cleaning, are important  to minimise any danger of spread. If further  information is required, contact your local HPU |
| Mumps\* | Exclude child for five days after  onset of swelling | Preventable by vaccination (MMR x 2 doses) |
| Threadworms | None | Treatment is recommended for the child and  household contacts |
| Tonsillitis | None | There are many causes, but most cases are due to  viruses and do not need an antibiotic |

**\* denotes a notifiable disease**.

**Outbreaks:** if a school, nursery or childminder suspects an outbreak of infectious disease, they should inform their local HPU.

**Good Hygiene Practices: Hand washing** is one of the most important ways of controlling the spread of infections, especially those that cause diarrhoea and vomiting, and respiratory disease. The recommended method is the use of liquid soap, warm water and paper towels. Always wash hands after using the toilet, before eating or handling food, and after handling animals. Cover all cuts and abrasions with waterproof dressings.

**Coughing and sneezing** easily spread infections. Children and adults should be encouraged to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue. Wash hands after using or disposing of tissues. Spitting should be discouraged.

**Personal protective equipment (PPE):** Disposable non-powdered vinyl or latex-free CE-marked gloves and disposable plastic aprons should be worn where there is a risk of splashing or contamination with blood/body fluids (for example, nappy or pad changing). Goggles should also be available for use if there is a risk of splashing to the face. Correct PPE should be used when handling cleaning chemicals.

**Cleaning** of the environment, including toys and equipment, should be frequent, thorough and follow national guidance. For example, use colour-coded equipment, COSHH and correct decontamination of cleaning equipment. Monitor cleaning contracts and ensure cleaners are appropriately trained with access to PPE.

**Cleaning of blood and body fluid spillages:**. All spillages of blood, faeces, saliva, vomit, nasal and eye discharges should be cleaned up immediately (always wear PPE). When spillages occur, clean using a product that combines both a detergent and a disinfectant. Use as per manufacturer’s instructions and ensure it is effective against bacteria and viruses and suitable for use on the affected surface. Never use mops for cleaning up blood and body fluid spillages – use disposable paper towels and discard clinical waste as described below. A spillage kit should be available for blood spills.

**Laundry** should be dealt with in a separate dedicated facility. Soiled linen should be washed separately at the hottest wash the fabric will tolerate. Wear PPE when handling soiled linen. Children’s soiled clothing should be bagged to go home, never rinsed by hand.

**Sharp Injuries and Bites:**If skin is broken, encourage the wound to bleed, wash thoroughly using soap and water. Contact GP or occupational health or go to A&E immediately. Ensure local policy is in place for staff to follow. Contact your local HPU for advice, if unsure.

**Animals:** Animals may carry infections, so wash hands after handling animals. Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidelines for protecting the health and safety of children should be followed.

**Animals in school:** (permanent or visiting). Ensure animals’ living quarters are kept clean and away from food areas. Waste should be disposed of regularly, and litter boxes not accessible to children. Children should not play with animals unsupervised. Veterinary advice should be sought on animal welfare and animal health issues and the suitability of the animal as a pet. Reptiles are not suitable as pets in schools and nurseries, as all species carry salmonella.

**Visits to farms:** Please contact your local environmental health department who will provide you with help and advice when you are planning a visit to a farm or similar establishment. For more information see www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/ais23.pdf

**Vulnerable Children:** Some medical conditions make children vulnerable to infections that would rarely be serious in most children; these include those being treated for leukaemia or other cancers, on high doses of steroids and with conditions that seriously reduce immunity. Schools and nurseries and childminders will normally have been made aware of such children. These children are particularly vulnerable to chickenpox or measles and, if exposed to either of these, the parent should be informed promptly and further medical advice sought. It may be advisable for these children to have additional immunisations, for example pneumococcal and influenza.

**Female Staff and Pregnancy:**If a pregnant woman develops a rash or is in direct contact with someone with a potentially infectious rash, this should be investigated by a doctor. The greatest risk to pregnant women from such infections comes from their own child/children, rather than the workplace.

* Chickenpox can affect the pregnancy if a woman has not already had the infection. Report exposure to midwife and GP at any stage of exposure. The GP and antenatal carer will arrange a blood test to check for immunity. Shingles is caused by the same virus as chickenpox, so anyone who has not had chickenpox is potentially vulnerable to the infection if they have close contact with a case of shingles.
* German measles (rubella). If a pregnant woman comes into contact with German measles she should inform her GP and antenatal carer immediately to ensure investigation. The infection may affect the developing baby if the woman is not immune and is exposed in early pregnancy.
* Slapped cheek disease (parvovirus B19) can occasionally affect an unborn child. If exposed early in pregnancy (before 20 weeks), inform whoever is giving antenatal care as this must be investigated promptly.
* Measles during pregnancy can result in early delivery or even loss of the baby. If a pregnant woman is exposed she should immediately inform whoever is giving antenatal care to ensure investigation.

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| Signed by Playscheme Co-ordinator |  |
| Date | 07/01/2020 |
| Review Date | 07/01/2021 |

# Smoking, Alcohol and Drugs Policy

## Drugs

Playworkers or volunteers who arrive at the University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme (UCHP) clearly under the influence of illegal drugs will be taken into a separate room and questioned and disciplinary procedures may be implemented. Children who arrive at UCHP clearly under the influence of illegal drugs will be taken into a separate room and their parents will be called.

If a child is found in possession of illegal drugs on the premises, the drugs will be confiscated and their parent will be informed immediately. If Playworkers are found in possession of illegal drugs, serious disciplinary action will follow. In both cases the police will be called.

In cases where Playworkers are taking prescribed drugs that may affect their ability to function effectively at work, the Playscheme Co-ordinator should be informed as early as possible and a risk assessment will be completed. Playworkers are required to notify UCHP of any changes to their health during each Playscheme to ensure there has been no change in circumstances since they last worked.

## Alcohol

Playworkers, students, volunteers who arrive at UCHP clearly under the influence of alcohol, will be taken into a separate room and questioned and disciplinary procedures will be implemented. Children, who arrive at UCHP clearly under the influence of alcohol, will be taken into a separate room and parents contacted.

If a child is found in possession of alcohol on the premises the alcohol will be confiscated and their parent will be informed immediately. Playworkers must not bring alcohol onto UCHP premises.

If a Playworker has good reason to suspect that a parent is under the influence of alcohol when they drop off or collect their child they have a duty to inform the UCHP designated Child Protection Officer, according to the provisions of the ‘Safeguarding’ Policy’.

The Playscheme Co-ordinator will then be responsible for deciding on the appropriate course of action, ensuring that the safety and protection of the child remains paramount at all times.

## Smoking

Smoking is not permitted anywhere on the premises including the use of electronic cigarettes. This rule applies equally to Playworkers, students, volunteers, children, parents or any other visitors.

If a child is found in possession of cigarettes on the premises, the cigarettes will be confiscated and their parent informed.

## Parents under the Influence

If a Playworker has good reason to suspect that a parent is under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol when they drop off or collect their child, they have a duty to inform the UCHP designated Child Protection Officer, who, according to the provisions of the Safeguarding policy will then be responsible for deciding upon the appropriate course of action, ensuring that the safety and protection of the child remains paramount at all times.

Playworkers will make all possible efforts to ensure that children are not allowed to travel in a vehicle driven by someone under the influence of illegal drugs. Where an illegal act such as this is suspected, the following procedure will apply

* The Site Co-ordinator will immediately assign a Playworker to contact the Playscheme Co-ordinator to explain the situation
* The Site Co-ordinator will make every effort to delay the parent leaving the site and will try to prevent the parent leaving the site until the Playscheme Co-ordinator arrives
* If the Site Co-ordinator is unable to prevent the parent from leaving the site and sees them driving away, the Police must be called immediately
* Once the Playscheme Co-ordinator arrives at the site, they will explain to the parent why they have been prevented from leaving and that they cannot allow the parent to drive their child in their current state
* The Playscheme Co-ordinator will support the parent in finding another method of transportation home including calling a family member or a taxi
* If the parent becomes hostile or insists they are fit to drive the Police will be called
* The Playscheme Co-ordinator will ensure that the incident is documented and Social Care are informed

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| --- | --- |
| Signed by Playscheme Co-ordinator |  |
| Date | 07/01/2020 |
| Review Date | 07/01/2021 |

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# Social Networking Policy

University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme recognises that Playworkers may use the Internet for personal purposes and may participate in social networking on sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat and Instagram. Playworkers must ensure they do not breach the law or disclose any confidential information about the setting, children or families. This includes stating on social media that they work for the University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme.

This policy outlines UCHP’s approach to social networking and the use of blogs. It details the ground rules for Playworkers, who should ensure that the content of their blogs/social networking sites does not bring the setting into disrepute.

The term ‘blog’ is short for ‘web log’. A blog is an online diary detailing personal insights and experiences. This is shared with an online audience.

A social network site is a website, which allows individuals to construct a public or semi-public online profile and to connect with others who share similar interests and views.

Whilst at Playscheme, Playworkers must not access personal blogs/social networking sites unless in the staffroom on their specified break.

The setting does not condone Playworkers writing about their work on social networking sites or web pages. If a Playworker does choose to do so, they are expected to follow the rules below.

**Playworkers must not:**

* disclose any information that is confidential to the setting or any third party or disclose personal data or information about any individual child, colleague or service user, which could be in breach of the Data Protection Act.
* disclose the name of the setting or allow it to be identified by any details at all. This includes posting photos of children and young people and the premises.
* link their own blogs/personal web pages to the setting’s website.
* make defamatory remarks about the setting, colleagues or children and young people or their parents.
* misrepresent the setting by posting false or inaccurate statements.

Communication with children and young people, by whatever method, should always take place within clear and explicit professional boundaries. Playworkers should avoid any misinterpretation of their motives or any behaviour that could be construed as grooming.

**Playworkers** **should not**:

* give their personal email details to children, young people or parents who use the setting.
* send social networking site ‘friend requests’ to, or accept them from, children, young people or parents who use the setting. If a child sends a friend request the Playscheme Co-ordinator must be notified immediately. Exceptional circumstances such as being a direct family member of the child/young person will be considered.

UCHP implore their Playworkers to remember that anything posted online could end up in the public domain to be read by children, parents or even future employers – so be careful what they post and who they post it to. For example, posting explicit pictures of themselves could damage their reputation and that of their chosen profession and organisation. Parents and employers may also question a Playworkers suitability to care for children. Failure to adhere to the rules and guidelines in this policy may be considered misconduct and could lead to disciplinary and/or criminal investigations.

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| Signed by Playscheme Co-ordinator |  |
| Date | 07/01/2020 |
| Review Date | 07/01/2021 |

# Trips, Outings and Visits Policy

The University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme (UCHP) believes that visits and outings play an important and enriching role in the programme of activities that we provide for children.

A Risk Assessment will be carried out for any trip. This should include consideration of the journey, any transportation involved, and contingency arrangements in case of break down, illness et cetera

The Playscheme Co-ordinator will request all relevant information and a Risk Assessment statement from the venue (where available). Risk Assessment findings will be shared with all those attending the trip.

UCHP will ensure that the activities planned are covered through UCHP insurance

UCHP will make every effort to involve children in the planning of visits and outings. Playworkers will explain to children the purpose of the trip, along with what is expected of them in terms of their behaviour.

Children will be talked through any potential safety hazards and told to remain with Playworkers at all times.

All children will be given a sticker/badge/wristband with UCHP name and contact number and a high viz jacket with UCHP name. Playworkers will explain to children what to do in an emergency, including designating a suitable meeting point.

## Parental Consent

UCHP will only allow children on a trip when permission has been granted by parents.

Parents have the absolute right to withhold consent for a proposed visit or outing. Children without consent will not be allowed to participate in off-site trips, excursions or outings.

## During visits and outings

The minimum ratio will be 1 Playworker for every 5 children under 11 years of age; for children are over 11 years of age a ratio of 1 Playworker for every 10 children will be applied; subject to the nature of the activity and Risk Assessment.

Before setting out, all Playworkers involved in the trip hold a meeting to discuss the trip and safety procedures. A trip leader will be appointed and will have overall responsibility whilst off UCHP premises.

Children will remain under close supervision at all times.

UCHP will ensure that a First Aid kit is on hand and a First Aider is present.

Designated Playworkers will have trip mobile phones with them at all times and their numbers will be circulated to the Site Co-ordinator in advance of the visits and outings in case of an emergency.

A register will be taken as necessary and regular head counts will be made by Playworkers.

A list of all Playworkers and children participating in the trip or outing, along with relevant mobile phone numbers, will be taken with the Playworkers leading the trip and a copy left on UCHP premises.

## After visit and outings

Playworkers will carry out a review of the trip to identify the following

* Did the children enjoy the trip?
* Was the trip appropriate for the children?
* Did the timings work?
* Did the Playworkers ratios work?
* Were there any safety issues

Playworkers will ensure that children and are also involved in the review and will ensure their opinions are considered for future trips.

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| Signed by Playscheme Co-ordinator |  |
| Date | 07/01/2020 |
| Review Date | 07/01/2021 |

# Uncollected Children Policy

The University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme (UCHP) has the highest regard for the safety of the children in our care – from the moment they arrive to the moment that they leave.

At the end of every session, the UCHP will ensure that all children have been collected by a parent, carer or designated adult, in accordance with the Arrivals and Departures policy. If for some reason a child is not collected at the end of a session, the following procedures will be activated.

* If a parent, carer or designated adult is more than 15 minutes late in collecting their child, the Playscheme Co-ordinator will be informed
* Playscheme will attempt to contact the parent, carer or designated adult, and use any other emergency contact details available in order to try to ascertain the cause for the delay, and how long it is likely to last. Messages will always be left on any answer phone requesting a prompt reply
* While waiting to be collected, the child will be supervised by Playworkers who will offer them activities and as much support and reassurance as is necessary
* If, after repeated attempts, no contact has been made with the parent, carer or designated adult Playscheme will call the local Social Care team for advice, after 30 minutes of UCHP closing
* UCHP will act on the advice of Social Care Department
* Unless absolutely necessary the child will not be taken to the home of a Playworker, or away from the UCHP’s premises, in the course of waiting for them to be collected at the end of a session
* The child will remain in the care of UCHP Playworkers until they are collected by the parent, carer or designated adult, or alternatively placed in the care of Social Care Department
* In the event of Social Care being called and responsibility for the child being passed to a safeguarding agency, Playscheme will attempt to leave a further telephone message with the parent or designated adults’ and will do everything in its power to communicate the situation to the parent or designated adult, reassuring them of their child’s safety and instruct them to contact the local Social Care Department (details below).
* Incidents of late collection will be recorded by the Site Co-ordinator and discussed with parents at the earliest opportunity. Parent will be informed that late collection fees apply at UCHP at the rate of fifty pence (50p) per minute, plus any additional costs incurred from the venue.

Social Care 0345 045 0180

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| Signed by Playscheme Co-ordinator |  |
| Date | 07/01/2020 |
| Review Date | 07/01/2021 |

# Contact Details

University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme (UCHP) Administrative Base (outside of Playscheme weeks):

**Childcare Office, 21 Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1QA**

Playscheme Co-ordinator (Office): 01223 764186

(Mobile): 07985 735725

Deputy Playscheme Co-ordinator (Office): 01223 330766

(Mobile): 07377 944519

Playscheme Administrator (Office): 01223 339905

Childcare Services Manager (Office): 01223 765305

Fax: 01223 339907

Email: [Playscheme@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:Playscheme@admin.cam.ac.uk)

UCHP Website <http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/univ/childcare/playscheme/index.html>

Site mobile numbers (Playscheme time only):

Chesterton @ Red Team Site Mobile: 07739 985504

St Mary’s @ Blue Team 07739 985506

**Useful Numbers**

* Social Care urgent referrals: 0345 045 5203.
* Out of hours Emergency Duty Team 01733 234724
* EYNSO (Early Years Named Senior Officer) 01223 714760
* LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer 01223 727967
* LSCB (Local Safeguarding Children Board) [www.cambslscb.org.uk](http://www.cambslscb.org.uk)

01480 376699

* Cambridgeshire Police 101, 999 or 112 from a mobile.
* Cambridgeshire Early Years and Childcare Service 01223 714752
* Childcare Information Service (Young Lives) 0345 045 4014
* OFSTED 0300 123 1231
* DfE Helpline (in case of positive C-19 case) 0800 046 8687 (option 1)
* PHE East of England HPT (COVID-19 Track and 0300 303 8537

Trace) [EastofEnglandHPT@phe.gov.uk](mailto:EastofEnglandHPT@phe.gov.uk)

[;](mailto:;              phe.EoEHPT@nhs.net)

[phe.EoEHPT@nhs.net](mailto:;              phe.EoEHPT@nhs.net)

1. A 1:1 Playworker at UCHP is a Playworker that receives on the job experience with SEN children as part of their training. A basic training is given to 1:1 workers by UCHP, in the form of a general supervision session to give a basic understanding of SEN. Child specific information is then given to the 1:1 worker prior to them working together. A constant re-evaluation takes place of the child’s needs and how UCHP meets those needs. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)