



Pebbles

EDUCATION

Risk Assessment Policy

March 2023

For admission to

Pebbles Education



Policy Statement

Pebbles Education is committed to the protection of children and young people and regards the safeguarding and promoting of their interests and wellbeing to be of paramount concern.

We consider it the duty of all those employed or involved with the organisation to prevent the physical, emotional, neglectful, financial, institutional or sexual abuse of all children and young people with whom they come into contact and to protect and promote their general welfare and wellbeing based on the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) as per the Child Protection Policy.

To protect young people and support their progress in learning appropriately a detailed, accurate and personalized risk assessment must be maintained highlighting the specific risks to young people (as perpetrators or as victims) for their academic progress, physical safety and overall health and wellbeing (measured using GIRFEC indicators). Risk assessments identify risks to individual young people, groups of young people and staff. They ensure control measures are in place to limit the impact. It must also evolve to reflect the needs of young people as they progress in their learning and wellbeing.

Principles

- All young people have an absolute right to a childhood free from abuse, neglect or exploitation with an equal right to protection from abuse, neglect or exploitation and a responsibility not to abuse or exploit others
- All young people have a right to progress in their education in a safe and purposeful learning environment where risks are limited
- All staff (teaching and support) have a responsibility to be aware of issues limiting safety, health and wellbeing and progress in learning and act to limit risk in these areas
- Young people are best kept safe when professionals communicate effectively and share responsibility for limiting risks
- A robust system of cross-referencing of policy and procedures and regular systematic risk assessment will ensure that all risks are known
- Staff should be proactive and take positive steps to inform young people of their rights to safety and protection and the options available to express their fears or concerns, and these will most likely impact on their risk assessment

Aims

- To ensure that the needs of young people cared for, or educated, at Pebbles Education (will be referred to as 'the company' throughout) are well known, their risks appropriately assessed and limited
- To ensure that the company meets the expectations of The Children (Scotland) Act 1995; Education (Scotland) Act 2016, The United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989; the Regulation of Care Act (2001), The Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003 and

the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 in ensuring protection and effective care, a key aspect of this being effective risk assessments

- To ensure that the company complies with the National Guidance on Child Protection Scotland 2014, Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015) and local Child Protection Committee's policies and procedures and work within the Getting it Right for Every Child Framework (GIRFEC) incorporating the SHANARRI indicators, all being reflected in risk assessments

Objectives

- To ensure that the safety and welfare of young people looked after or educated by the company is paramount
- To document all associated risks and use daily to monitor risks
- To reassure parents / carers, those with parental responsibility and Placing Authorities that the company takes the issue of child protection and risks seriously – **A YOUNG PERSON WILL NOT BE ADMITTED BEFORE A RISK ASSESSMENT IS COMPLETED**

Definitions of Risks to be Identified

The Scottish Government guidance (2014)¹ states that 'child abuse and neglect is the maltreatment of a child'. Abuse is any form of physical, emotional or sexual mistreatment or lack of care that leads to injury or harm. Detailed definitions of the types of abuse are contained within the Child Protection Policy. Risk assessments identify risks represented by issues arising from young people's exposure/vulnerability to:

- Disengagement with education and failure to progress/thrive
- Physical abuse – as a perpetrator or victim
- Emotional abuse – as a perpetrator or victim
- Sexual abuse and CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation) – as a perpetrator or victim
- Sexualised behaviour/language
- Social isolation/exclusion from peer group
- Challenging/distressed behaviour detrimental to progress/health and wellbeing
- Medical conditions and administration of medication
- Poor mental health (depression, anxiety, bipolar, etc.)
- Damage to building or school/other property and resulting harm to others – arson, smashing glass/windows, punching, etc.
- Absconding
- Drug (including alcohol) and substance use
- Smoking
- Risky behaviour – climbing, hanging, throwing, etc.
- Disruptive and distracting behaviour
- Bullying, including cyber bullying
- Use of implements to harm/threaten/damage e.g. knives, tools, scissors, etc.

¹ National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014

- Social media and ICT – linked to CSE and other forms of abuse and exploitation
- Self-harm and suicide
- Radicalisation
- Racial abuse of young people and staff
- Assault of staff
- Any other behaviour/conduct/situation impacting on a young person's (or other young people's) progress, safety and/or wellbeing

Risk Assessment Process

Any young person to be admitted (see Admissions Policy) to Pebbles Education will have a risk assessment completed.

Sources of information informing the risk assessment

During this assessment, information from the following sources is used:

- Behaviour Plan from children's home (if applicable)
- Profiles from children's home (if applicable)
- Daily logs, incident reports from children's home (if applicable)
- Chronology/relevant information from social services
- Any Safeguarding/Child Protection documentation available
- Educational progress/tracking reports from previous education provision
- Coordinated Support Plan (if applicable)
- Information from TAC (Team Around the Child) and LAC (Looked After Child) meetings (if applicable)
- EHCP (Education and Healthcare Plan) (for young people from English LAs)
- Discussions with Police Scotland and other agencies with involvement with young people in the community
- Any other relevant information pertaining to the young people

The Risk Assessment pro forma front page contains a checklist of sources of information which staff must complete to detail where the information the assessment is based on originated.

Identification of risk and control measures

There is a high-level checklist on Page 1 of the young persons' risk assessment form to identify the main risks to be assessed in greater depth throughout the assessment, to give a summary of risk at a glance.

Individual risks are then detailed in the 'Identified risks, potential impact and control measures' table on Page 2 of the young persons' risk assessment form. Evidence and sources are required to support the decision to highlight the risk. Control measures are also required to be detailed here; it is expected that this requires discussion and consultation with stakeholders to identify, verify and confirm details around risk.

Monitoring, review and update

The risk assessment will be reviewed daily by the staff team, with overall responsibility sitting with the Key Teacher and quality assured by the Head Teacher.

Page 3 of the young persons' risk assessment form provides space to catalogue any significant events which lead to amendments to the risk assessment. The date, nature of incident/situation and impact on the risk assessment must be detailed in the table.

The following documents will inform the production, monitoring, review and update of the risk assessment:

- Any information from homes/external agencies/parents/carers, etc. previously not known about/taken into account
- Daily narratives/observations
- IEPs and discussions with Key Teacher(s)
- Child Protection concerns raised through disclosure forms (CP1)
- Accident Report forms
- Incident Reports
- Daily Logs
- Any other significant incidents/discussions/events considered material to the risk assessment

Version control and tracking of amendments

Page 4 of the risk assessment contains a table to be updated with any amendments made to the risk assessment. The risk assessment should be kept electronically, and minor changes can be made on the original assessment. Major changes should be made on a new assessment and the original kept on file.

Any amendments should be logged in the version control table to track the changes to risks recorded.

Cross Reference

Pebbles Care Policies:

- Absconding Policy
- Administration of medication Policy
- Admissions Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Anti-Racism Policy
- Arson Prevention Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Child Sexual Exploitation Policy
- Code of Conduct

- Cyber Bullying Policy
- Drugs Education Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Safer Caring Privacy and Confidentiality Policy

Legislation

The Children (Scotland) Act 1995

Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014

The Regulation of Care Act (Scotland) 2001

The Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003

The Human Rights Act 1998

Vulnerable Children and Young People: Sexual Exploitation Through Prostitution (Scottish Executive 2003)

Protection of Children and Prevention of Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2005

Safeguarding Children in Scotland who May have been trafficked (Scottish Government 2009)

Sexual Offences Act (Scotland) 2009

Child Abduction and Custody Act 1985

Human Trafficking (Scotland) Bill 2013

Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007

Education (Scotland) Act 2016

Government Guidance

National Guidance for Child Protection Scotland (2014)

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015)

National Care Standards

Standard 6 GIRFEC (Get it Right for Every Child)

GIRFEC (Get it Right for Every Child)