

**Norman Court Montessori CIC  
Child Sexual Exploitation Policy**

**Statutory Guidance**

Local Safeguarding Children's Board website [www.4lscb.org.uk](http://www.4lscb.org.uk)

Services for Young Children Website [www.hants.gov.uk/childcare](http://www.hants.gov.uk/childcare)

Keeping Children Safe in Education:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/550511/Keeping\\_children\\_safe\\_in\\_education.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/550511/Keeping_children_safe_in_education.pdf)

Statutory Framework for EYFS (2017):

[http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2017/03/EYFS\\_STATUTORY\\_FRAMEWORK\\_2017.pdf](http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2017/03/EYFS_STATUTORY_FRAMEWORK_2017.pdf)

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 – OFSTED

What to do if you're worried a child is being abused (2015):

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/419604/What\\_to\\_do\\_if\\_you\\_re\\_worried\\_a\\_child\\_is\\_being\\_abused.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419604/What_to_do_if_you_re_worried_a_child_is_being_abused.pdf)

This policy has been developed in response to growing concerns about the scale of sexual exploitation and the recognition that any child might be targeted for grooming and exploitation.

**Definitions**

Sexual exploitation is a form of abuse whereby children are deliberately persuaded to enter into situations where they receive something (for example, gifts, money, food, accommodation) in exchange for sexual activity.

- Children may be exploited by an individual, several individuals working as an organised group, or by a gang.
- Grooming is the process of 'preparing' a boy or girl for a sexual purpose. Grooming is often slow and subtle, continuing for several weeks or months and lulling the child into a false sense of security. It always involves manipulation and deceit.
- Two types of grooming are recognised: street grooming which occurs in the community, and online grooming using technology including the internet and mobile phones.

The complexity and challenge of sexual exploitation and grooming It can be difficult to identify children and young people who are at risk of sexual exploitation. The grooming process draws children in to what they initially perceive as a new and caring relationship with an exciting older boyfriend or girlfriend. Attempts to explain the risks to the child may be met with derision and hostility. By the time the child realises the reality of the 'relationship' they may have been seriously sexually, physically and psychologically abused, threatened with the distribution of indecent photographs or videos of their abuse and warned that they will put themselves or their family in danger if they speak out. Unsurprisingly, the child will be restrained to disclose their abuse, particularly to people in positions of authority such as teachers, social workers or police officers.



## NORMAN COURT

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The child may find it impossible, for a number of reasons, to speak to their parent(s)/guardian(s) and their abusers will have sought to isolate them from their family and friends. Some children may have developed drug or alcohol addictions and rely on their abusers for supply.

### **Procedure**

Norman Court Montessori CIC staff are in daily contact with the children and play an important role in keeping children safe. To help keep children safe from sexual exploitation and grooming Norman Court Montessori CIC:

- Raise staff awareness of sexual exploitation and grooming.
- Help parent(s)/guardian(s) to understand the issue if a concern is raised.
- Contribute to multi-agency safeguarding and child protection arrangements.
- Promote healthy and safe relationships.

### **Procedure for reporting concerns**

Staff should report any concern about sexual activity to the Designated Safeguarding Lead who will decide on the most appropriate course of action, in line with our Safeguarding and Child protection policy.

Staff that are approached by a child wishing to discuss sexual matters must make it clear to the children that they cannot guarantee confidentiality but will act in the child's best interests.