



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Practice Lead is Sandeep Lakhanpaul BDS

We are committed to protect children from harm. Our dental team accepts and recognises our responsibilities to develop awareness of the issues which cause children harm.

We will endeavour to safeguard children by

- adopting child protection guidelines through procedures and a code of conduct for the dental team
- making staff and patients aware that we take child protection seriously and respond to concerns about the welfare of children
- sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know and involving parents and children appropriately
- following carefully the procedures for staff recruitment and selection
- providing effective management for staff by ensuring access to supervision, support and training

We are also committed to reviewing our policy and good practice at regular intervals.

Our child protection policy

A suitable child protection policy for a dental practice should affirm the practice's commitment to protecting children from harm and should explain how this will be achieved. A policy by itself is not enough, however. Safeguarding children also involves:

- listening to children
- providing information for children
- providing a safe and child-friendly environment



Listening to children

Create an environment in which children know their concerns will be listened to and taken seriously. You can communicate this to children by:

- asking for their views when discussing dental treatment options, seeking their consent to dental treatment in addition to parental consent
- involving them when you ask patients for feedback about your practice
- listening carefully and taking them seriously if they make a disclosure of abuse

Providing information to children

To support children and families, you can provide information about:

- local services providing advice or activities
- sources of help in times of crisis, for example, NSPCC Child Protection Helpline, NPCC Kids Zone website, Childline, Samaritans

UPDATED CONTACT DETAILS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE INTERNET

Providing a safe and child-friendly environment

- taking steps to ensure that areas where children are seen are welcoming and secure with facilities for play
- considering whether young people would wish to be seen alone or accompanied by their parents
- ensuring that staff never put themselves in vulnerable situations by seeing young people without a chaperone
- ensuring that your practice has safe recruitment procedures in place



Other relevant policies and procedures

Clinical governance policies that you already have in place will contribute to your practice being effective in safeguarding children. Relevant policies and procedures include:

- safe staff recruitment procedures: making potential job applicants aware of your child protection policy, checking gaps in employment history, requesting proof of identity, and taking up references
- complaints procedure so that children or parents attending your practice can raise any concerns about the actions of your staff that may put children at risk of harm
- public interest disclosure policy (underperformance policy) so that staff can raise concerns if practice procedures or action of other staff members puts children at risk of harm
- code of conduct for staff clarifying the conduct necessary for ethical practice, particularly related to maintaining appropriate boundaries in relationships with children and young people (including a statement that staff members will be chaperoned when attending to unaccompanied children,