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nurturing their curiosity

Child Absence and Welfare Concerns Policy

At Apple Blossom Nursery, safeguarding the welfare of every child is our highest priority. Regular attendance is a vital aspect of this responsibility. This policy outlines the actions to be taken when children are absent and how we assess and respond to concerns, in line with the EYFS Statutory Framework 2025 (paragraphs 3.9 – 3.10 for group settings.)

Acting Promptly on Absences

All child absences must be followed up on the same day. Practitioners will attempt to make direct contact with the child's parents or carers as soon as it is clear the child will not be attending as expected.

Investigating Prolonged or Unexplained Absences

If a child is absent without explanation or for a prolonged period, the nursery will:

• Attempt to contact the primary carers and all listed emergency contacts.
• Record all contact attempts and responses.
• Escalate the matter if no contact is made within a reasonable timeframe.

Assessing Risk

Practitioners and the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will consider:

• Patterns of repeated or unexplained absences.
• Any known vulnerabilities relating to the child or family.
• Potential safeguarding concerns in the home environment.

This assessment will inform decisions on any next steps or referrals.

Escalating Concerns

If there are concerns about a child's welfare and contact with the family cannot be established, the DSL will escalate the concern by:

• Making a referral to Children's Social Care.
• Requesting a welfare check by the police if immediate risk is suspected.

Attendance Policy and Parental Responsibilities

Apple Blossom Nursery provides all parents and carers with a copy of our attendance policy. This includes:

• The requirement to inform the nursery of any planned or unplanned absence.
• The importance of daily attendance and communication.
• The safeguarding actions taken if concerns arise from a child's absence.

This transparency ensures all parties understand their role in supporting regular attendance and child safety.