



Employment Policy

We at the Tithe Barn Preschool ensure that adults looking after children, or having unsupervised access to them, are suitable to do so.

We meet the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage, ensuring that our staff are appropriately qualified, and we carry out checks for criminal and other records through the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) in accordance with statutory requirements.

Vetting and staff selection

We work towards offering equality of opportunity by using non-discriminatory procedures for staff recruitment and selection. All staff have job descriptions, which set out their staff roles and responsibilities.

We welcome applications from all sections of the community. Applicants will be considered on the basis of their suitability for the post, regardless of disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, sex, age, marriage or civil partnership. Applicants will not be placed at a disadvantage by our imposing conditions or requirements that are not justifiable.

We use Ofsted guidance on obtaining references and enhanced DBS checks through the Disclosure & Barring Service for staff and volunteers who will have unsupervised access to children. This is in accordance with requirements under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2010) for the vetting and barring scheme.

We keep all records relating to employment of staff and volunteers, in particular those demonstrating that checks have been done, including the date and number of the enhanced DBS check.

Staff are expected to disclose any convictions, cautions, court orders, reprimands and warnings which may affect their suitability to work with children - whether received before, or at any time during, their employment with us and are contracted to sign our Declaration Form annually.

Disqualification

Where we become aware of any relevant information which may lead to the disqualification of an employee, we will take appropriate action to ensure the safety of children. In the event of disqualification, that person's employment with us will be terminated.

Changes to staff

We inform Ofsted of any changes in the person responsible for our setting.

Training and staff development

At the Tithe Barn Preschool, both Managers hold Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and our Deputy Manager holds at least, a full and relevant Level 3 Qualification. Our Play Assistants hold at least, a full and relevant Level 2 Qualification. All staff are Paediatric First Aid trained or gaining training within an agreed time limit in accordance with the Statutory Framework (September 2021). All staff will also attend the necessary level of Safeguarding Children.



We provide regular in-service training to all staff, whether paid staff or volunteers, through the Gloucestershire EYFS courses and external agencies. Our setting budget allocates resources to training.

We provide staff induction training in the first week of employment. This induction includes our Health & Safety Policy, Safeguarding Policy and Risk Assessments. All other policies and procedures will be introduced within a short induction period.

We support the work of our staff by holding regular Supervision Meetings and Appraisals.

We are committed to recruiting, appointing and employing staff in accordance with our Safer Recruitment Policy and all relevant legislation and best practice.

Staff Medication / Other Substances

If a member of staff is taking medication which may affect their ability to care for children, we ensure that they seek further medical advice. Staff will only work directly with the children if medical advice confirms that the medication is unlikely to impair their ability to look after children properly.

Staff medication on the premises will be stored securely and kept out of reach of the children at all times.

If we have reason to believe that a member of staff is under the influence of alcohol or any other substance that may affect their ability to care for children, they will not be allowed to work directly with the children and further action will be taken (see Disciplinary Procedures).

Managing Staff Absences

Being a term-time only setting, our staff take their holiday breaks when the setting is closed. Where staff may need to take time off for any reason other than sick leave or training, this is agreed with the manager with sufficient notice.

Sick leave is monitored and action is taken where necessary, in accordance with the contract of employment.

We have contingency plans to cover staff absences: There are several bank staff that are contactable in case of absences.

Staff Mental Health & Well-Being

The well-being of our staff is very important to the Managers. All staff have been trained how to identify good mental health and behaviours that can affect it. The Managers support staff in their Supervisions and Appraisals with Mental Health and have an open and honest policy.

Written September 2016

Reviewed annually

Signed:  