

Major Incidents and National Emergencies Policy (Safety 3.55, Risk Assessment 3.64, Outings 3.65 - 3.66)

Safety

Here at Grafton Childcare we must take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of the children, staff and others on the premises in the case of fire or any other emergency, and we must have an emergency evacuation procedure. Grafton Childcare has the necessary appropriate fire detection and control equipment (e.g., fire alarms, smoke detectors, emergency lighting, fire blankets and fire extinguishers) which is all in working order and checked annually by a competent person. Fire exits are all clearly identifiable, and fire doors are all free of obstruction and easily opened from the inside.

Risk Assessment

Here at Grafton Childcare we must ensure that we take all reasonable steps to ensure the staff and the children in our care are not exposed to risks and we must be able to demonstrate how we are managing risks*. We must determine where it is helpful to make some written risk assessments in relation to specific issues, to inform staff practice, and to demonstrate how we are managing risks if asked by parents and/or carers or inspectors. Our risk assessments should identify aspects of the environment that need to be checked on a regular basis, when and by whom those aspects will be checked, and how the risk will be removed or minimised.

* We have sort Guidance on risk assessments from the Health and Safety Executive as well as taken note of the guidance provided in the Government booklet "Preparing for Emergencies, What You Need to Know" and on the www.gov.uk under "Recognising the terrorist threat" and "Managing the risk from terrorism".

Outings

Children must be kept safe while on outings. Here at Grafton Childcare we must assess the risks or hazards which may arise for the children, and must identify the steps to be taken to remove, minimise and manage those risks and hazards. Vehicles in which children are being transported, and the driver of those vehicles, must be adequately insured.

The assessment must include consideration of adult to child ratios. Any risk assessments do not necessarily need to be in writing; it is for Grafton Childcare to judge if a written Risk Assessment is required on a case by case basis.

Procedures

Major Incidents and National Emergencies Policy

Sadly these days it is considered necessary to have a procedure in place on what to do in the event of a more widespread disaster in the community i.e. a major fire or flooding, civil disturbances and terrorism. At all times the care and security we provide to your child is paramount.

Recognising the Terrorist Threat

There is a serious and sustained threat from both international and Irish-related terrorism to the UK and UK interests overseas.

1. Threat Levels

We can check the current threat levels:

- in the terrorism and national emergencies area on GOV.UK

- on the MI5 website

The most significant terrorist threat comes from al-Qa'ida and associated networks. As the coordinated attacks on London in July 2005 and Manchester in May 2017 showed, attacks may be mounted without warning.

Northern Ireland-related terrorism continues to pose a threat. Dissident republican terrorist groups (such as the Real IRA and the Continuity IRA) have rejected the 1998 Good Friday Agreement. They still aspire to mount attacks within the UK mainland and have conducted attacks within Northern Ireland.

2. STAY SAFE : Terrorist Firearms and Weapons Attacks

Firearms and Weapons attacks are rare in the UK. The '**STAY SAFE**' principles give us some simple actions to consider during an incident and the information that armed officers may need in the event of a weapons or firearm attack:-

2.1 RUN

- We will escape if we can
- Consider the safest options
- Is there a safe route? RUN if not HIDE
- Can we get there without exposing ourself to greater danger?
- We will insist others leave with us
- We will leave belongings behind

2.2 HIDE

- If we can't RUN, we will HIDE
- Find cover from gunfire
- If we can see the attacker, they may be able to see us
- Cover from view does not mean you are safe, bullets go through glass, brick, wood and metal
- Find cover from gunfire e.g. substantial brickwork / heavy reinforced walls
- Be aware of our exits
- Try not to get trapped
- Be quiet, silence our phone
- Lock / barricade ourself in
- Move away from the door

2.3 TELL - Call 999 - What do the police need to know?

- Location - Where are the suspects?
- Direction - Where did you last see the suspects?
- Descriptions - Describe the attacker, numbers, features, clothing, weapons etc.
- Further information - Casualties, type of injury, building information, entrances, exits, hostages etc.
- Stop other people entering the building if it is safe to do so

2.4 Armed Police Response

- Follow officers instructions
- Remain calm
- Can we move to a safer area?
- Avoid sudden movements that may be considered a threat
- Keep our hands in view

2.5 Officers May

- Point guns at us
- Treat us firmly
- Question us
- Be unable to distinguish us from the attacker
- Officers will evacuate us when it is safe to do so

3. Terrorism Threat Levels

The threat level indicates the likelihood of a terrorist attack in the UK.

International Threats

The threat to the England from international terrorism was classed as **Severe (4)** on **29/05/17**, after being at **Critical (5)** for a few days following the attack in Manchester.

Threat Levels

There are 5 levels of threat:

- **1. Low** - an attack is unlikely
- **2. Moderate** - an attack is possible but not likely
- **3. Substantial** - an attack is a strong possibility
- **4. Severe** - an attack is highly likely
- **5. Critical** - an attack is expected imminently

Here at Grafton Childcare we will do everything within our powers to protect, comfort and support your child in the event of a major incident. If we are involved or caught up in the incident we will comply fully with the instructions from the emergency services and constantly reassure the children in our care.

If you are caught up in an incident please be reassured that we will continue to look after your child until you are able to return or a person nominated is able to collect them, we would simply put into place our **Non Collection or Arrival of Child Policy**.

Whereby 30 minutes later than your normal collection time if we have not heard from either parent to make us aware of any delay or change in collection plans for that day we shall begin to contact the emergency contacts on your list. If none are available to collect your child we will then contact the duty Social Worker from the Devon Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and ask them to make a judgement on what should happen to your child. An incident form will be completed, copies of which will be sent to MASH & Ofsted a copy will be held on the premises in your child's Safeguarding Folder. We reserve the right to charge for late collections as per the terms and conditions of your childcare contract.

We understand that during major incidents the mobile phone networks are often not available and even landlines can be cancelled to free up communication systems for the emergency services. We will however attempt to contact you on a regular basis and ask that you try to do the same. We will keep up to date on the situation using any media source available to us, radio, television, internet etc. We will endeavour to protect your child from information or images that may alarm or distress them. If you wish we can have a pre-planned excuse that we can use to explain your delay in arriving let us know, it could be a flat tire on the car for example.