

Terrorist Attack / National Emergency Policy (Updated for EYFS 2025)

Policy Statement: At Butterflies Nursery, the safety and well-being of children and staff members are our top priorities. This policy outlines our preparedness, response procedures, and communication strategies in the event of a terrorist attack or national emergency. Our aim is to ensure the security, reassurance, and effective coordination of all individuals involved.

Preparedness and Awareness

- We recognise the importance of preparedness for potential emergencies, including terrorist incidents, civil unrest, or national crises.
- Staff members will receive training on emergency procedures and response protocols to enhance readiness.

Communication and Contact Information

- We will maintain up-to-date contact information for parents, legal guardians, and emergency contacts.
- Staff members will have immediate access to emergency contact details at all times.

Emergency Contact Procedures

- In the event of a terrorist attack or national emergency, staff will follow pre-designated communication procedures to keep parents and guardians informed.
- Regular updates will be provided to ensure that families are aware of the situation and the safety of children and staff.

Shelter-in-Place or Lockdown

- If necessary, the setting may go into lockdown or shelter-in-place mode to ensure everyone's safety.
- Lockdown procedures will be practiced regularly to ensure staff and children remain calm and secure in an emergency.

Evacuation Procedures

- If an evacuation is necessary, pre-determined evacuation procedures will be immediately implemented.
- Designated evacuation routes and assembly points will be communicated to staff, and children will be safely escorted to a secure location.

Secure Communication

- Staff will use secure communication channels such as text messages or phone calls to relay emergency updates.
- Public communication platforms (e.g., social media) will be used responsibly to ensure accurate information is shared with parents.

Reuniting Families

- Parents and guardians will be given clear instructions on how and where to reunite with their child.
- Staff will ensure children are only handed over to authorised individuals using pre-agreed emergency procedures.

Support and Reassurance

- Staff will provide emotional support to children during and after the emergency, using calming techniques and age-appropriate explanations.
- Communication with parents will prioritise reassurance, offering accurate updates and support.

Review and Drills

- This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if needed to remain compliant with the latest legislation and safety guidance.
- Regular emergency drills and training will be conducted to ensure that all staff are confident in executing safety measures.

Reporting and Documentation

- Any incidents related to terrorist threats or national emergencies will be documented and reported in line with legal and regulatory requirements.

Alignment with EYFS 2025 Changes

This policy aligns with the EYFS 2025 updates by:

- Ensuring child safety is a priority during national emergencies or security incidents.
- Enhancing risk assessment strategies to include national threats and emergency preparedness training.
- Implementing strengthened communication procedures between providers, families, and emergency services.
- Providing emotional and psychological support for children during and after a crisis.

Review and Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed annually or more frequently if required, ensuring compliance with new legislation and safeguarding updates. Feedback from staff, parents, and external agencies will be welcomed to continuously improve emergency preparedness.

Signed: Chrissie Day

Date: 2nd July, 2025