



# Domestic Violence, Honour-Based Abuse & Forced Marriages Policy

Bijou Day Nursery & Crèche, Cowbridge

**Policy owner:** Nursery Manager / Rheolwr y Feithrinfa

**Version:** 2.0

**Last reviewed:** June 2026 / Mehefin 2026

**Next review:** June 2027 / Mehefin 2027

**Approved by:** Samantha Rennison, Responsible Individual / Unigolyn Cyfrifol

## 1. Policy Statement

Bijou Day Nursery & Crèche recognises that domestic abuse, honour-based abuse (HBA), and forced marriages are serious safeguarding issues that can directly and indirectly harm children. We are committed to identifying, supporting and safeguarding children and families affected by these issues.

This policy complies with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021; Serious Crime Act 2015 (forced marriage provisions); Wales Safeguarding Procedures 2019; Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015; Children Act 1989 & 2004; Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014; and CIW guidance.

## 2. Definitions

### 2.1 Domestic Abuse

Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members. Under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, **children who see, hear or experience the effects of domestic abuse are recognised as victims in their own right.**

### 2.2 Honour-Based Abuse (HBA)

A collection of practices used to control behaviour within families or social groups to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and/or honour. Abuse can include assault, imprisonment, threats, forced marriage, FGM, and murder ("honour killing").

### 2.3 Forced Marriage

A marriage in which one or both people do not or cannot consent to the marriage, and pressure or abuse is used. This is a criminal offence in the UK. It is different from an arranged marriage, where both parties consent freely.

### 3. Impact on Children

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Children living with domestic abuse may experience:

- Physical harm (direct or incidental during violent incidents)
- Emotional and psychological damage, including anxiety, depression and PTSD
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) with long-term impacts on health and development
- Behavioural changes including aggression, withdrawal, or regression
- Disrupted attachments and difficulty forming relationships
- Impact on learning and cognitive development

### 4. Recognising the Signs

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- Unexplained injuries to a child or parent/carer
- Fearful or anxious behaviour around certain adults
- Frequent absences or late arrivals/early collections
- Changes in behaviour — withdrawal, aggression, regression or acting out domestic violence in play
- A parent appearing frightened, anxious or having visible injuries
- Controlling behaviour displayed by a parent or partner at drop-off/collection
- Reluctance of a parent to discuss their home situation

### 5. Our Response

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- We treat all disclosures seriously and respond sensitively
- We do not attempt to mediate between a victim and the alleged perpetrator
- We do not contact the alleged perpetrator about the disclosure
- We prioritise the safety of the child and the non-abusing parent/carer
- Information is shared on a need-to-know basis and stored securely
- We work in partnership with local multi-agency services

### 6. Reporting Procedure

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- Report all concerns to the DSP immediately
- The DSP will assess and make a referral to local authority children's social care and/or the police as appropriate
- In cases of immediate danger, call 999
- For suspected forced marriage: contact the Forced Marriage Unit on 020 7008 0151
- For suspected HBA: do NOT approach the family — refer directly to the police or social care

### 7. Support for Staff

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We recognise that staff members may also be affected by domestic abuse. Staff are encouraged to speak to the manager or Responsible Individual in confidence. Support and information about local services will be provided.

## Key Contacts

National DA Helpline (Live Fear Free Wales)	0808 801 0800
Forced Marriage Unit	020 7008 0151
Police Emergency	999
LA Children's Social Care	01446 725202
CIW	0300 790 0126

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**Bijou Day Nursery & Crèche**  
Responsible Individual: Samantha Rennison  
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