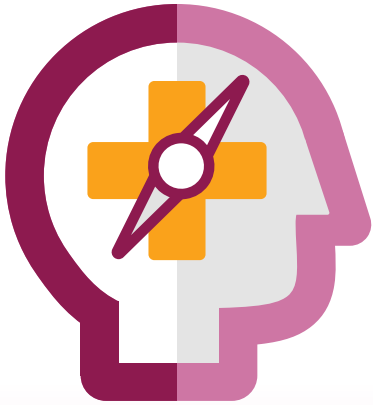




BUILDING CONSISTENCY IN SAFEGUARDING ACROSS EARLY YEARS WITH CPOMS STUDENTSAFE

For Little Acorns Nursery in Skipton, safeguarding is the foundation on which everything else is built. The nursery believes in providing a safe, nurturing, and preventative environment where children can grow into confident learners, supported by strong partnerships with parents, staff, and external agencies.

Little Acorns Nursery is a private, voluntary, and independent (PVI) early years provider with two buildings in Skipton. The nursery cares for around 60 children per day, offering provision across a baby room, toddler room, and preschool.

The team of 23 staff provides high-quality early education and care throughout long days, often with multiple transitions between rooms and different adults working with the same children.

This creates a unique safeguarding landscape compared with schools:

- Staff balance early years curriculum requirements with intimate care responsibilities.
- Lunchtimes, first aid, and daily parent engagement all add to safeguarding complexity.
- With long hours and many staff working shifts, children may interact with numerous adults each day, increasing the need for clear, consistent safeguarding practices.

THE CHALLENGE

Before adopting CPOMS, safeguarding information at Little Acorns was managed on paper. Each child had their own file, with staff making handwritten notes that were then passed between teams.

This created serious challenges:

- **Inconsistency** – Multiple staff might record concerns in different ways.
- **Communication gaps** – With long days and limited crossover time, staff often struggled to share important information during transitions.
- **Volume of paperwork** – Safeguarding created “mammoth amounts” of paper, which carried the risk of being misplaced or incomplete.
- **Time pressure** – Staff needed a system that could keep up with fast-paced, ever-changing nursery routines.

Before CPOMS, passing information on was messy. Notes went missing, and consistency was hard to achieve with so many staff across different rooms. The paperwork was huge, and important things could easily be overlooked.

Sarah Harper
Owner
Little Acorn Nursery

HOW CPOMS HELPED

Having already used CPOMS successfully in a school setting, Sarah Harper knew it would translate well into early years. In fact, she felt nurseries needed it even more because of the complexity of staff rotations and transitions.

Key reasons for choosing CPOMS included:

- **Consistency** – One format, one approach. Every staff member records concerns in the same way, ensuring quality and clarity.
- **Ease of use** – CPOMS' simple, intuitive interface gave staff confidence quickly.
- **Transfers** – Moving children between rooms—or eventually onto school—was made seamless through CPOMS' transfer function.
- **Audit trail** – Records are detailed, formal, and factual, removing subjectivity or informal note-passing.
- **Sector alignment** – With most local schools already using CPOMS, adopting it in the nursery ensured continuity of information when children transitioned.

In nurseries, staff change rooms, children move around, and so many adults interact with them every day. CPOMS brings order and consistency—it's vital in this environment.

Sarah Harper
Owner
Little Acorn Nursery



THE RESULTS

The rollout was carefully phased:

- 1 LEADERSHIP TEAM FIRST**
Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) were introduced to CPOMS.
- 2 ROOM LEADS NEXT**
Room leaders were trained to log and monitor cases, acting as key points of communication.
- 3 WHOLE STAFF TRAINING**
CPOMS' clear online training and documentation helped staff gain confidence, supported by internal training from the leadership team.



Safeguarding surrounds everything we do—it's the foundation. From curriculum to care routines, we work in partnership to protect children and help them grow into confident individuals.

Sarah Harper
Owner
Little Acorn Nursery

Setup was smooth, even without a Management Information System (MIS). CPOMS provided guidance on using CSV files for data import and helped tailor safeguarding categories to suit early years needs.

Importantly, CPOMS also brought **formality and professionalism** to safeguarding conversations:

"CPOMS eliminated gossip. There's now a clear, factual way to record and share safeguarding concerns. It gives staff clarity on their responsibilities."

– Sarah Harper

Since introducing CPOMS StudentSafe, Little Acorns has seen significant improvements:

- **Consistency:** Safeguarding information is now logged in one secure, standardised format, ensuring clarity across teams.
- **Detail & quality:** Incidents are recorded with greater accuracy and formality, strengthening the nursery's safeguarding culture.
- **Efficiency:** Transitioning children between rooms—or onto primary school—is seamless, with records transferred securely and instantly.
- **Compliance:** During an unannounced Ofsted inspection, the nursery was able to confidently demonstrate safeguarding through CPOMS.
- **Accountability:** Regular audits within CPOMS allow leadership to monitor staff engagement, offering refresher training if needed.
- **Cultural shift:** Staff now understand safeguarding as everyone's responsibility, supported by a consistent, user-friendly system.



For more information on how CPOMS software can help your setting enhance safeguarding processes and information sharing capabilities, request a personalised demonstration.

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