First, a comment:

The Square takes the safety of your child very seriously and we endeavour to create an environment where your child can play relatively freely without any of the risks often associated with many other types of play. As such, it is important to formalise a policy on how we help to protect your child while they are on our site. However, it is important to state here that whilst we take this policy very seriously, this does not devolve you, as the child's parent or guardian, of your own responsibilities for the safety of the children in your care. We can only minimise the risks to children if both the parent/guardian and The Square work together.

Policy Statement

We have a duty of care to safeguard all children in attendance on our site from harm. All children have a right to protection, and the needs of disabled children and others who may be particularly vulnerable must be taken into account. The Square will ensure the safety and protection of all children on our site through adherence to this policy. A child is defined as a person under the age of 18 (The Children Act 1989).

Our policy

We will ensure that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount
- All children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin religious beliefs and/or sexual identity will be protected from unnecessary risk, abuse or poor practice
- Our play spaces are always open, well lit, within view of staff and customers (or monitored by other means where this is not physically possible, such as CCTV), adhere to the latest safety guidelines and are regularly checked.
- Our general site rules will always be child-friendly and will put the child's welfare before all others.
- Our business will always be child-focused, and any other businesses carried out on our site (either directly by us or by third parties) will always be child-related.
- Entry to the site will always be strictly controlled, by means of a staff-operated door entry system or staff monitoring (or both), to ensure we know who is on site at all times.
- Exit from the site will always require the action of an adult (by way of a push-button out of reach of children, or similar method) to prevent a child wandering off-site alone
- All of our staff have a responsibility to report any concerns and will feel comfortable in doing so
- We create an atmosphere where parents/guardians feel able to report any examples (or suspicions) of unnecessary risk, abuse or poor practice to a member of staff freely
- All suspicions and allegations of unnecessary risk, abuse or poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- We will keep accurate, written records of any accident, injury or other event that potentially harms a child, along with details of action taken. These records will be reviewed annually by management to ensure any apparent trends are swiftly identified and addressed