

Equality and Diversity Policy

Date: October 2020

Review Date: October 2021

We will ensure that our service is fully inclusive in meeting the needs of all children, particularly those that arise from their ethnic heritage, social and economic background, gender, special educational needs, ability or disability.

Our setting is committed to anti-discriminatory practice to promote equality of opportunity and valuing diversity for all children and their families.

Aim

We aim to:

- Provide a secure and accessible environment in which all our children can flourish, and in which all contributions are considered and valued
- Include and value the contribution of all families to our understanding of equality and diversity
- Provide positive non-stereotyping information about gender roles, diverse ethnic and cultural groups and disabled people
- Improve our knowledge and understanding of issues of anti-discriminatory practice, promoting equality and valuing diversity
- Make inclusion a thread that runs through all of the activities of the setting

The legal framework for this policy is:

- The Equality Act 2010
- EYF 2017
- Children and Families Act 2014
- SEND Code of Practice 2015

In order to meet our legal duties, promote equality and inclusion in our setting and value diversity we follow these procedures:

Admissions

- Our setting is open to all members of the community
- We advertise our service widely.
- We reflect the diversity of members of our society in our publicity and promotional materials.
- We provide information in clear, concise language, whether in spoken or written form.
- We provide information in languages that suit the needs of our families
- We base our admissions policy on a fair system.
- We ensure that all parents are made aware of our equality and diversity policy and all other relevant policies.
- We do not discriminate against a child or their family, or prevent entry to our setting, on the basis of colour, ethnicity, religion and social background, such as being a member of a Travelling community or an asylum seeker.
- We do not discriminate against disabled children. Consideration needs to be given to any reasonable adjustments required to include any child who may have a disability or special educational needs.
- We develop an action plan to ensure that all individuals can participate successfully in the services offered by the setting and in the curriculum offered.
- We take action against any discriminatory behaviour by staff or parents.
- Discriminatory and possibly offensive materials, name calling, swearing or threatening behaviour are unacceptable on or around the premises and will be dealt with in the strongest manner.

Employment

- Posts are advertised and all applicants are judged against criteria required.
- Applicants are welcome from all backgrounds and cultures. Posts are open to all, subject to appropriate experience and qualifications.
- We may use exemption clauses in relevant legislation to enable the service to best meet the needs of the community.
- The applicant who best meets the criteria is offered the post, subject to references and checks by the Criminal Records Bureau. This ensures fairness in the selection process.
- All job descriptions include a commitment to valuing equality, inclusion and respecting diversity as part of their specifications.
- We monitor our application process to ensure that it is fair and accessible.

Curriculum and environment

The curriculum offered in the setting encourages children to develop positive attitudes about themselves as well as to people who are different from themselves. It encourages children to empathise with others and to begin to develop the skills of critical thinking.

The environment is accessible for all visitors and service users. Reasonable adjustments have been made to accommodate the needs of disabled children and adults.

We do this by:

- Making children feel valued and good about themselves
- Making adjustments to the environment and resources to accommodate a wide range of learning, physical and sensory impairments
- Making appropriate provision within the curriculum to ensure each child receives the widest possible opportunity to develop their skills and abilities; e.g. recognising the different learning styles of each individual child
- Positively reflecting the widest possible range of communities by enhancing the choice of resources
- Avoiding stereotypes or derogatory images in the selection of books or other visual materials
- Celebrating a wide range of festivals and celebrations, different cultures, religions and abilities
- Creating an environment of mutual respect and tolerance
- Differentiating the curriculum to meet children's special educational needs
- Helping children to understand that discriminatory behaviour and remarks are hurtful and unacceptable
- Ensuring that children learning English as an additional language have full access to the curriculum and are supported in their learning
- Ensuring that children speaking languages other than English are supported in the maintenance and development of their home languages
- Valuing diversity in families
- We welcome the diversity of family lifestyles and work with all families.
- We encourage children to contribute stories of their everyday life to the setting.
- We encourage parents/carers to take part in the life of the setting and to contribute fully.
- For families who speak languages in addition to English, we will develop means to ensure their full inclusion

Healthy eating/ respecting different food preferences/cultures/dietary requirements

- We work in partnership with parents to ensure that the medical, cultural and dietary needs of children are met.
- We help children to learn about a range of food, and of cultural approaches to mealtimes and eating, and to respect the differences among them.

Monitoring and reviewing

- To ensure our policy and procedures remain effective we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory guidance and review our policies annually to ensure our strategies meet the overall aims to promote equality, inclusion and valuing diversity.
- We provide a complaints procedure.

Management signature:

Date: