

Equalities Policy

We will ensure that we provide a safe and caring environment, free from discrimination, for everyone in our community including children with additional needs.

To achieve the Centre's objective of creating an environment free from discrimination and welcoming to all, the Centre will:

- Respect the different racial origins, religions, cultures and languages in a multi-ethnic society so that each child is valued as an individual without racial or gender stereotyping.
- Not discriminate against children on the grounds of disability, sexual orientation, class, family status or HIV/Aids status.
- Help all children to celebrate and express their cultural and religious identity by providing a wide range of appropriate resources and activities.
- Strive to ensure that children feel good about themselves and others, by celebrating the differences which make us all unique individuals.
- Ensure that its services are available to all parents/carers and children in the local community.
- Ensure that the Centre's recruitment policies and procedures are open, fair and non-discriminatory.
- Work to fulfil all the legal requirements of the Equality Act 2010.
- We will monitor and review the effectiveness of our inclusive practice by conducting an Inclusion Audit on an annual basis.

Challenging inappropriate attitudes and practices

We will challenge inappropriate attitudes and practices by engaging children and adults in discussion, by displaying positive images of race and disability, and through our staff modelling anti-discriminatory behaviour at all times.

Racial harassment

The Centre will not tolerate any form of racial harassment. The Centre will challenge racist and discriminatory remarks, attitudes and behaviour from the children at the Centre, from staff and from any other adults on Centre premises (e.g. parents/carers collecting children).

Promoting equal opportunities

The Manager is responsible for ensuring that:

- Staff receive relevant and appropriate training
- The **Equalities policy** is consistent with current legislation and guidance
- Appropriate action is taken wherever discriminatory behaviour, language or attitudes occur.

Children with additional needs

Our Centre recognises that some children have additional needs or physical disabilities that require particular support and assistance. We will assess the individual needs of each child in consultation with their parents prior to their attending the Centre, and will make reasonable adjustments to ensure that children can access our services and are made to feel welcome.



Where one-to-one support is required, we will assist parents in accessing the funding required to provide the additional care.

Special Educational Needs

The Manager will:

- Liaise with parents, and external agencies where appropriate, to identify those children with SEN.
- Ensure that EHCP plans are on file, read and understood, and appropriate support is given where possible.
- Manage the provision for children with special educational needs or physical disabilities.

All members of staff will assist in caring for children with additional needs or physical disabilities.

Training

All staff will receive internal Equality and Diversity training, to ensure that they are aware of current legislation, in addition to their rights and responsibilities.

Written in accordance with the *Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2017): Safeguarding and Welfare requirements: Equal opportunities [3.67], Information for parents and carers [3.73], and Child protection [3.7].*