



Hail Weston Pre-School, The Village Hall, High Street, Hail Weston, Cambs. PE19 5JS, Tel: 01480 214574

## Children's Rights & Entitlements Policy

### Policy statement

- We promote children's rights by following the articles of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (1989), in particular the general principles:
  - Article 2: Non-discrimination
  - Article 3: The best interests of the child
  - Article 6: The right to life, survival and development and;
  - Article 12: The right to be heard

#### *Non-discrimination:*

- We do this by creating an environment in our setting which encourages children to develop a positive self-image, which includes their heritage arising from their ethnicity, their religious beliefs, cultural traditions and background.
- We encourage children and families to share their cultures with us.
- We celebrate languages and emphasise the importance of children speaking their native tongue and we aid in language development within the setting.
- We welcome and celebrate gender diverse children and families.
- We encourage all children to be respectful and tolerant of others by giving them the opportunities to learn about other people in their early years education.
- All children are welcome at our setting and all children are given the same opportunities to learn and develop, with additional help as and when needed.

#### *The best interests of the child:*

- We always act in the child's best interests.
- Children are always given choice and are free to make their own decision but may be gently encouraged to do something when it is in their best interests, such as to have a drink of water or to play outside for a few minutes to get some fresh air. Children are never forced to do anything and their well-being is always the main priority.
- We keep records regarding accidents, incidents and concerns about children as part of our safeguarding practices.

#### *The right to life, survival and development:*

- We promote and encouraging children to develop a sense of autonomy and independence.
- We promote children's rights by enabling children to have the self-confidence and the vocabulary to resist inappropriate approaches.
- We help children to establish and sustain satisfying relationships within their families, with peers, and with other adults.
- We work with parents to build their understanding of, and commitment to, the principles of safeguarding all our children.
- We ensure that children's development is monitored closely through our key person system and regularly discuss with parents to ensure that children are developing appropriately and that any support that may be needed is accessed.

#### *The right to be heard:*

- We always make time to listen to children and value what they are saying.
- We recognise that even non-verbal children communicate and those non-verbal communications are still insightful and valuable.

- We give children every opportunity to participate in the structure of their own learning by following their interests and ensuring that our practice is child centred.
- We give children every opportunity to express themselves and we take the time to make sense of the children’s expressions.
- We value children and tune in with a professional ear to what they are saying (and doing) and respond appropriately.

We encourage all children to be strong and resilient as part of our safeguarding practices.

**What it means to promote children’s rights and entitlements to be ‘strong, resilient.’**

To be **strong** means to be:

- **secure** in their foremost attachment relationships where they are loved and cared for, by at least one person who is able to offer consistent, positive and unconditional regard and who can be relied on;
- **safe and valued** as individuals in their families and in relationships beyond the family, such as day care or school ;
- **self-assured** and form a positive sense of themselves – including all aspects of their identity and heritage;
- **included equally and belong** in early years settings and in community life;
- **confident in abilities** and **proud** of their achievements;
- **progressing optimally** in all aspects of their development and learning;
- **to be part of a peer group** in which to learn to negotiate, develop social skills and identity as global citizens, respecting the rights of others in a diverse world; and
- **to participate and be able to represent themselves** in aspects of service delivery that affects them as well as aspects of key decisions that affect their lives.

To be **resilient** means to:

- **be sure** of their self-worth and dignity;
- be able to be **assertive** and state their needs effectively;
- be able to **overcome** difficulties and problems;
- **be positive** in their outlook on life;
- be able to **cope** with challenge and change;
- have a **sense of justice** towards self and others;
- to develop a **sense of responsibility** towards self and others; and
- to be able to **represent** themselves and others in key decision making processes.

*This policy was adopted at a committee meeting of HAIL WESTON PRE-SCHOOL ACTIVITY GROUP held on January 2020*

Date to be reviewed: January 2021

Signed on behalf of the Management Committee:.

Lizzie Spear

Signatory:.....

Role of signatory: Chairperson

