

Elephant and Castle Child Care Centre Inclusion and Equality Policy

Statement of intent

At Elephant and Castle Child Care Centre we take great care to treat each individual as a person in their own right, with equal rights and responsibilities to any individual, whether they are an adult or a child. We are committed to providing equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children and families according to their individual needs. Discrimination on the grounds of gender; age, race, religion or belief, marriage or civil partnership, disability, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy or maternal, ethnic or national origin, or political belief has no place within our nursery.

A commitment to implementing our inclusion and equality policy will form part of each employees job description. Should anyone believe that this policy is not being upheld, it is the duty to report the matter to the attention of nursery manager at the earliest opportunity. Appropriate steps will then be taken to investigate the matter and if such concerns are well founded, disciplinary action will be invoked under the nursery's disciplinary policy.

The legal framework for this policy is based on:

- Equality Act 2020
- Children Act 2004
- Care Standards Act 2002
- Childcare Act 2006
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years 2014
- Children and Families Act 2014

The nursery and team are committed to:

- Recruiting, selecting, training and promoting individuals on the basis of occupational skills requirements. In this respect, the nursery will ensure that no job applicant or employee will receive less favourable treatment because of age; sex, gender reassignment, disability, marriage or civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, pregnancy or maternity which cannot be justified as being necessary for the safe and effective performance of their work or training.
- Provide a childcare place, wherever possible, for children who may have learning difficulties and/or disabilities or are deemed disadvantaged according to their individual circumstances, and the settings ability to provide the necessary standard of care.
- Make reasonable adjustments for children with special educational needs and disabilities.
- Strive to promote equal access to services and projects by taking practical steps (wherever possible and reasonable), such as ensuring access to

people with additional needs and by producing materials in relevant languages and media for all children and their families.

- Provide a secure environment in which all our children can flourish and all contributions are valued.
- Include and value the contribution of all families to our understanding of equality, inclusion and diversity.
- Provide positive non-stereotypic information.
- Continually improve our knowledge and understanding of issues of equality, inclusion and diversity.
- Regularly reviewing, monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of inclusive practices to ensure they promote and value diversity and difference and that the policy is effective and practices are non-discriminatory. This will be undertaken by using the Three General Duties of The Equality Act 2010 as a tool.
- Making inclusion a thread, which runs through the entirety of the nursery, for example, by encouraging positive role models through the use of toys, imaginary play and activities, promoting non-stereotypical images and language and challenging all discriminatory behaviour.

Admissions/service provision

The nursery is accessible to all children and families in the local community and further afield through a comprehensive and inclusive admissions policy.

The nursery will strive to ensure that all services and projects are accessible and relevant to all groups and individuals in the community with in targeted age groups.

Recruitment

All members of the selection group will be committed to the inclusive practice set out in this policy and will have received appropriate training in this regard.

At interview, no questions will be posed which potentially discriminate on the grounds specified in the statement of intent. All candidates will be asked the same questions and members of the selection group will not introduce nor use any personal knowledge of candidate acquired outside the selection process. Candidates will be given the opportunity to receive feedback on the reasons why they were not successful.

Team

It is the policy of Elephant and Castle Child Care Centre not to discriminate in the treatment of individuals. All the team are expected to co-operate with the implementing, monitoring and improvement of this and other policies. All staff are expected to challenge language, actions, behaviours and attitude which are oppressive or discriminatory on the grounds specified in this policy and recognise and celebrate other cultures and traditions. All team members are expected to participate in equality and inclusion training.

Team members will follow the whistleblowing policy where applicable to report any discriminatory behaviours observed.

Training

The nursery recognises the importance of training as a key factor in the implementation of an effective inclusion and equality policy. All new staff receive induction training including specific reference to the inclusion and equality policy. The setting will strive towards the provision of inclusion, equality and diversity training for all team members on a three year basis.

Early learning framework

Early learning opportunities offered in the nursery encourage children to develop positive attitudes to people who are different from them. It encourages children to empathise with others and to begin to develop the skills of critical thinking.

We do this by:

- Making children feel valued and good about themselves.
- Ensure that all children have equal access to early learning and play opportunities.
- Reflect the widest possible range of communities in the choice of resources.
- Avoid stereotypical or derogatory images in the selection of materials.
- Acknowledge and celebrate a wide range of religions, beliefs and festivals.
- Create an environment of mutual respect and empathy.
- Help children to understand that discriminatory behaviour and remarks are unacceptable.
- Ensure that all early learning opportunities offered are inclusive of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and children from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Ensure that children whose first language is not English have full access to early learning opportunities and are supported in their learning.
- Work in partnership with all families to ensure they understand the policy and challenge any discriminatory comments made.
- Ensure the medical, cultural and dietary needs of children are met.
- Help children to learn about a range of food and cultural approaches to meal times and to respect the differences among them.

Information and meetings

Information about the nursery, its activities and their children's development will be given in a variety of ways according to individual needs (written, verbal and translated), to ensure that all parents/carers can access the information they need.

Wherever possible, meetings will be arranged to give all families options to attend and contribute their ideas about the provision of the nursery.

This policy replaced the Equality and Diversity Policy.

This policy was adopted in August 2014 and will be reviewed annually and amended as necessary.

Signed on behalf of the setting.