

# Equal Opportunities Policy

## Rationale

At Peasmarsh Flying Start Pre-School we believe in valuing and celebrating the diversity within our community. We aim to develop good practice and positive attitudes in the early years, and encourage an anti-discriminatory approach to the world in general, and other human beings in particular. We believe that all people should have equal opportunities to learn, develop and grow with dignity in a community of mutual respect.

Peasmarsh Flying Start Pre-School Works in accordance with all relevant legislation, including: *Disability Discrimination Act 1995, Race Relations Act 1976, Sex Discrimination Act 1986, Children Act 1989.*

## Implementation of the policy in Peasmarsh Flying Start Pre-School

### The supervisor must ensure that:

- New members of staff, including students and volunteers, receive copies of the Equal Opportunities Policy or Manual, and that this is discussed with them during their induction meeting.
- The Equal Opportunities Policy is made available to all parents and carers.
- Staff, parents and children are involved in the planning and implementation of the policy.
- Parents who are experiencing problems with the English language, both spoken and written, will be offered support.
- Every effort is made to use the child's first language. When this is not feasible the pre-school involves other agencies for advice and assistance wherever possible.
- The help of key workers is offered to assist and support families.
- Every effort is made to obtain suitable specialist equipment, aids or resources.
- Reasonable adjustments are made to the premises to cater for anyone with any form of disability.
- If the case should arise that the child's first language is not English every effort will be made to assist staff in good communication by involving other agencies and gaining assistance.

## Our practice

- The Equal Opportunities Policy applies to every staff member, parent, carer and child. Each person is valued as an individual, with differing social, intellectual and cultural backgrounds. Different needs, likes, dislikes, similarities and differences are respected and accounted for.
- Nobody in the Pre-School is subjected to discrimination, racist comments or gender bias. Cultural or religious diversity is respected.
- We hold a discussion with parents before their child starts Pre-School, to establish their concerns about their child's specific emotional, medical, cultural or religious needs. This takes place either in the child's own home or during the induction process. The parents' contribution is recorded and relayed to other members of staff at the relevant staff meeting.
- We value parents as their children's first educators, and staff work closely with parents to share information, experiences, conversation and quality time, thus promoting positive role models for their children.
- We cater for cultural, religious and medical differences at all snack and mealtimes.
- We celebrate a variety of festivals and special events each year from cultures represented within our community and outside.
- We give the children equal opportunities and equal access to the full range of activities available.
- We monitor activities on a regular basis to ensure that every child has freedom of choice, time for discovery, and support, when it is necessary.
- During play we encourage the children to respect and value each other. We discourage them from making hurtful and unkind remarks. Staff ensure that children are helped towards understanding that it is wrong to judge someone because of their gender, colour, beliefs, disability or social background. We explain why, talk things through and praise positive behaviour.
- We challenge and deal with inappropriate practices and attitudes promptly.
- We record any seriously inappropriate racist or sexist comments made by children and staff, including volunteers and students.

## Staff training

- We take great care to apply the Equal Opportunities Policy when advertising for, interviewing and appointing staff.
- We keep staff informed and updated on new legislation, and train them accordingly.
- We give the opportunity to attend courses to staff who:

- Have identified an area in which they wish to improve their own knowledge and expertise
- Have been identified through an inspection or an in-house appraisal as having a training need
- Want to further their own personal development.
- We expect all staff to behave in a professional manner, follow the above policy and try to be consistent, sensitive and fair. We expect them to challenge others who make inadvertent racist, sexist or insensitive remarks.
- One member of staff is responsible for co-ordinating, advising on and reporting back to the Supervisor on how successfully the Equal Opportunities Policy has been implemented.

## Equipment

- We purchase, organise and monitor equipment, toys, books and resources to reflect diversity in the immediate and wider society.
- We display positive images of differing races, cultures, religions, social groups, physical abilities and disabilities and gender in and around the Pre-School.

## Adoption of Policy

This policy was adopted at a meeting of the committee of Peasmarsh Flying Start Pre-School on Pre-School premises on:

Date: .....

Signed on behalf of the Pre-School: .....

Print name of signatory: .....

Witnessed by: .....

Print name of witness: .....

## Agreement to adhere to policy by Pre-School staff

I confirm that I have read and understood this policy:

Name of staff member: Dawn Bull

Signature: .....

Date: .....

Name of staff member: Julie Stevens

Signature: .....

Date: .....

Name of staff member: Sarah Sturmer

Signature: .....

Date: .....

Name of staff member: Vonni Haydon

Signature: .....

Date: .....

Name of staff member: Rowena Tucker

Signature: .....

Date: .....

Name of Student/ Volunteer: .....

Signature: .....

Date: .....