

## Cygnets Pre-School – Valuing Diversity and promoting Equality

### Policy statement

We will ensure that our service is fully inclusive in meeting the needs of all children. We recognise that children and their families come from diverse backgrounds. All families have needs and values that arise from their social and economic, ethnic, cultural or religious backgrounds. Children grow up in diverse family structures that include two parent and one parent families; some children have two parents of same sex. Some children have close links with extended families of grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins while others may be removed from close kin or may live with other relatives or foster carers. Some children have needs that arise from disability or impairment or may have parents that are affected by disability or impairment.

Some children come from families who experience social exclusion or severe hardship; some have to face discrimination and prejudice because of their ethnicity, the languages they speak, their religious or belief background, their gender or impairment.

We understand that these factors affect the well-being of children and can impact on their learning and attainment.

Our setting is committed to anti-discriminatory practice to promote equality of opportunity and valuing diversity for all children and families. 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 to all families to our understanding of equality and diversity.
- Provide positive non- stereotyping information about gender or roles and diverse family structures, diverse ethnic and cultural groups and disabled people.
- Improve our knowledge and understanding of issues of anti-discriminatory practice, promoting equality and diversity;
- Challenge and eliminate discriminatory actions;
- Make inclusion a thread that runs through all the activities of the setting; and
- Foster good relations between all communities.

## Procedures

**Admissions** – Our setting is open to all members of the community

- We advertise our service.
- We reflect the diversity of our society in our publicity and promotional materials.
- We provide information in clear, concise language, whether in written or spoken form.
- We aim to provide information in as many languages as possible.
- We base our admissions policy on a fair system
- We ensure that all parents are made aware of our equal opportunities policy
- We do not discriminate against a child or their family, or prevent entry to our setting; on the basis of protected characteristics as defined by the Equalities Act 2010. These are:
  - Disability;
  - Race;
  - Gender reassignment;
  - Religion or belief;
  - Sex;
  - Sexual orientation;
  - Age;
  - Pregnancy or maternity; and
  - Marriage and civil partnership
- We do not discriminate against a child with a disability or refuse child entry to our setting for reasons relating to disability.
- We ensure wherever possible that we have a balanced intake of boys and girls in the setting
- We develop an action plan to ensure that people with impairments can participate successfully in services offered by the setting and in the curriculum offered.
- We take action against any discriminatory behaviour by staff or parents whether by:
  - **Direct discrimination** – someone is treated less favourably because of a protected characteristic e.g preventing families of some racial groups from using the service.
  - **Indirect discrimination** – someone is affected unfavourably by a general policy e.g children must only speak English in the setting.
  - **Association** – Discriminating against someone who is associated with a person with a protected characteristic e.g behaving unfavourably to someone is married to a person from a different background; or

- **Perception** – Discrimination on the basis that it is thought someone has a protected characteristic e.g assuming someone is gay because of their mannerism or how they speak
- Displaying openly discriminatory and possibly offensive materials, name calling, or threatening behaviour is unacceptable on or around the premises will be dealt with in the strongest manner.

## **Employment**

- Posts are advertised and all applicants are judged against explicit and fair criteria
- Applicants are welcome from all backgrounds and posts are open to all
- We may 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 DBS – Disclosure and Barring Service. This ensures fairness in the selection process. All job descriptions include a commitment to equality and recognising and respecting diversity as part of their specifications.
- We monitor our application process to ensure that it is fair and accessible.

## **Training**

- We seek out training opportunities for staff and volunteers to enable them to develop anti-discriminatory and inclusive practices, which enable all children to flourish.
- We ensure that staff are confident and fully trained in administering relevant medicines and performing invasive care procedures when these are required.
- We review our practices to ensure that we are fully implementing our policy for promoting equality, valuing diversity and inclusion.

## **Curriculum**

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 skill of critical thinking.

Our environment is as accessible as possible for all visitors and service users. If access to the setting is found to treat disabled or adults less favourably then we make reasonable adjustments to accommodate the needs of disabled children and adults. We do this by:

- Making children feel valued and good about themselves and others;
- Ensure children have equality of access to learning

- Undertaking an access audit to establish if the setting is accessible to all children.
- 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 girls and boys.
- Positively reflecting the widest possible range of communities in the choice of resources;
- Avoiding stereotypes or derogatory images in the selection of books or other visual materials
- Celebrating a wide range of festivals
- Creating an environment of mutual respect and tolerance
- Differentiating the curriculum to meet children's special educational needs and children with disabilities
- Helping children to understand that discriminatory behaviour and remarks are hurtful and unacceptable.
- Ensuring that the curriculum offered is inclusive of children with special educational needs and children with disabilities
- Ensuring that children learning English as an additional language have full access to the curriculum and are supported in their learning; and
- Ensuring 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 in the setting
- We encourage mothers, fathers and other 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
- WE offer flexible payment systems for families of differing means and offer information regarding sources of financial help

### ***Food***

- We work in partnership with parents to ensure that dietary requirements of children that arise from their medical, religious or cultural needs 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

## ***Meetings***

- Meetings are arranged to ensure that all families who wish to, may be involved in the running of the setting
- We positively encourage fathers to be involved in the setting especially those fathers who do not live with the child
- Information about meetings is communicated in a variety of ways – written, verbal and in translation – to ensure that all mothers and fathers have information about and access to meetings

## ***Monitoring and reviewing***

- To ensure our policies and procedures remain effective we will monitor and review them annually to ensure our strategies meet the overall aims to promote equality, inclusion and valuing diversity
- We provide a complaints procedure and a complaints summary record for parents to see.

## ***Legal framework***

- The Equality Act 2010
- Children’s Act 1989 (revised 2004, 2006, 2014)
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 (Amended – The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014, 2015)

This policy is the agreed working practice of staff and volunteers

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# HOPE

CHURCH



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