



# Nottingham Nursery School & Training Centre

## Care, Learning and Play Policy

March 2017

### **This policy includes EMAG, Involving and Consulting Children, International Co-ordination and Sex Education**

The programme of activities and the atmosphere of our school aims to encourage confidence, independence and enjoyment. Our work has, as its core, the aim of enabling children to develop their emotional, social, cognitive, interpersonal and physical skills, and their desire to explore, discover and be creative. It is based on the Early Years Foundation Stage principles.

The school will provide a well-planned and organised play environment that offers children rich and stimulating experiences, alongside opportunities to explore, experiment, plan and make decisions for themselves. The programme of activities will recognise and take into account the differing ages, interests, backgrounds and abilities of the children.

Activities are carefully planned to allow children to build on their natural curiosity, advance their thinking, use their imagination, take managed risks and develop positive social relationships. At all times, the staff will recognise a child's individuality, effort and achievement.

Wherever appropriate, children will be involved in the process of planning activities so that the planning reflects their opinions and interests. Learning is a shared process and children learn most effectively when, with the support of a knowledgeable and trusted adult, they are actively involved and interested. Activities are planned to be available for a length of time to allow children to observe, try and revisit them to consolidate their learning.

Staffing arrangements will provide correct ratios for the children and ensure adequate, or better, supervision of activities.

Staff will display flexible styles of leadership and respond appropriately to children according to their age, understanding and needs.

The school will provide children with a range of equipment and resources appropriate to their age and interests. Some of this equipment may appear dangerous eg hammers and saws, but children will be supervised during use, and staff who teach these skills will have been trained in how to teach them. New equipment will be risk assessed by staff prior to use.

Children will be offered access to outdoor play every day, regardless of weather conditions.

The planning for activities will be displayed in a place that is accessible to all staff, students and to parents/carers.

## EMAG provision

EMAG (Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant) is a grant allocated to schools via the Local Authority to support the learning of Black and bi-lingual children.

At Nottingham Nursery School our children from minority ethnic groups make up a significant proportion of the school population. For most of these children English is an additional language.

There is a senior member of staff with responsibility for ensuring equality of access for children with English as an additional language, and she also supports parents wherever possible. The Nursery employs interpreters where necessary. Children are targeted routinely in Nursery for developmental learning, and additional groups are set up for EMAG support within Nursery sessions.

EMAG support is essential for staff to gauge children's ability when not through the medium of English.

The expertise of the EMAG staff ensures rich and varied cultural, linguistic and religious experiences for all children.

## Involving and Consulting Children

Our school, and all its members of staff, are committed to the principle of involving and consulting children whenever decisions are made within the school that affect them. The school believes that actively promoting the participation of children in decision-making processes is beneficial to children, staff and the school as a whole.

The school's commitment to involving and consulting children stems from the 'listening to children' provisions set out in Articles 12 and 13 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. These state that:

- A child's opinion should be taken into account in anything that affects them.
- Children should have information disseminated in a way that enables them to make choices and decisions.

For children, involvement and consultation helps them to develop new skills such as negotiating, sharing and understanding the perspectives of others. It helps them to understand how decisions are made, and recognises that their opinions are important.

For both staff and the school, there are multiple benefits of such an approach such as improved behaviour, a relationship with children based on partnership, a more cohesive environment and activities and decisions that children feel a sense of ownership over.

All children will be listened to and consulted actively. This will take a number of forms, including:

- Listening to what they say in speech and other forms of communication
- Observing body language and behavior
- Drama and role play

- Through play and creative expression and the use of visual aids
- Via regular group based discussions and Q and A sessions
- Notice boards that carry important information about activities at the school

Age, maturity and the type of decision being made will determine the extent and nature of children's involvement. However, the emphasis should always be strongly in favour of involving children.

Consultation and involvement will be regularly monitored and acted upon so that children are able to see that their input has led to visible outcomes. The school and its staff will also be clear about what decisions children will be involved in and attempt to offer clear explanations if and when consultation and involvement is deemed inappropriate.

## International Co-ordination

We are committed to promoting International Awareness throughout the school and the wider community.

The School aims to provide a welcoming and caring environment that promotes and reflects our cultural diversity and is celebrated by all.

International Awareness will be achieved by:

- Arranging international activities within the school for children eg festivals, learning about clothes, food, dance and music of other parts of the world, stories and dual language books
- Inviting parents and visitors from other countries into the Nursery
- Inviting parents to join festivals and celebration days
- Initiating communication links with Nurseries in other countries and maintaining contact
- Ensuring all staff are engaged and familiar with the international activities in the Nursery
- Achieving the International School Award

## Sex and Relationships

The school will promote sex and relationship education within its PSED teaching.

The school recognises the importance of children making responsible and well-informed decisions.

The school will teach physical, moral and emotional development as part of its everyday curriculum (through the EYFS and SEAD).

Children will be taught to respect and care for themselves and other people.

The children will be taught:

- Attitudes and values
- Personal and social skills
- Self-care physical skills
- To gain confidence, to be self-assured and resilient
- Healthy lifestyles
- To keep themselves safe

The school will uphold its Healthy Schools values and promote good health and wellbeing for all children.

The school will work closely with parents, health professionals and social care.

The school will uphold its confidentiality policy at all times.

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years.