



Inclusion & Equality

Policy Statement

Holland Park Pre-Prep & Day Nursery takes great care to treat everyone as a person, with equal rights and responsibilities to any other individual, whether they are an adult or a child. We are committed to providing equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all staff, children, and families according to their individual needs. Discrimination on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation has no place within our nursery.

The legal framework for this policy is based on:

- Special Education Needs and Disabilities Code of Practice 2015
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Equality Act 2010
- Childcare Act 2006
- Children Act 2004
- Care Standards Act 2002
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001.

A commitment to implementing our inclusion and equality policy will form part of each employee's job description. Should anyone believe that this policy is not being upheld, it is their duty to report the matter to the attention of the Manager at the earliest opportunity.

Holland Park Pre-Prep & Nursery is committed to:

- Recruiting, selecting, training, and promoting individuals based on occupational skills requirements. In this respect, the nursery will ensure that no job applicant or employee will receive less favourable treatment because of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- Creating a working environment free of bullying, harassment, victimisation and unlawful discrimination, promoting dignity and respect for all, and where individual differences and the contributions of all staff are recognised and valued.
- Providing a childcare place, wherever possible, for children who may have special educational needs and/or disabilities or are deemed disadvantaged according to their individual circumstances.

- Making reasonable adjustments for children with special educational needs and disabilities to remove barriers and improve access for all.
- Striving 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.
- Providing a secure environment in which all our families are listened to, children can flourish, and all contributions are valued
- Including and valuing the contribution of all families to our understanding of equality, inclusion, and diversity
- Providing positive non-stereotypical information
- Continually improving our knowledge and understanding of issues of equality, inclusion and diversity and training all staff about their rights and responsibilities under the inclusion and equality policy.
- 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
- Making inclusion a thread which runs through the entirety of the nursery, for example, by encouraging positive role models using toys, imaginary play and activities, promoting non-stereotypical images and language and challenging all discriminatory behaviour (see dealing with discriminatory behaviour policy).
- Inappropriate attitudes and practices will be challenged.

Admissions/Service Provisions

We do not discriminate against a child or their family, or prevent entry to our setting, based on a protected characteristic as defined by the Equalities Act (2010). These are:

- Disability
- Race
- Gender reassignment
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- Age
- Pregnancy and maternity; and
- Marriage and civil partnership

We do not discriminate against a child with a disability or refuse entry to our setting for reasons of disability. We may develop an action plan if needed to ensure that people with impairments can participate successfully in the services offered by the setting and in the curriculum offered.

Employment

Recruitment, promotion and other selection exercises such as redundancy selection will be conducted on the basis of merit, against objective criteria that avoids discrimination. Shortlisting will be done by more than one person, where possible.

All members of the selection group are committed to the inclusive practice set out in this policy and will have received appropriate training in this regard. Application forms are sent out along with a copy of the equal opportunities monitoring form. Application forms do not include questions that potentially discriminate on the grounds specified in the statement of intent.

Vacancies are generally advertised to a diverse section of the labour market. Advertisements avoid stereotyping or using wording that may discourage particular groups from applying.

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

Staff

It is our policy not to discriminate in the treatment of individuals. All staff are expected to cooperate with the implementation, monitoring and improvement of this and other policies. They are expected to challenge language, actions, behaviours and attitudes which are oppressive or discriminatory on the grounds specified in this policy and recognise and celebrate other cultures and traditions. All staff are expected to participate in equality and inclusion training. Staff will follow the 'Dealing with Discriminatory Behaviour' 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 nursery strives towards the provision of inclusion, equality and diversity training for all staff on a basis.

Curriculum

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage and ensure that all learning opportunities offered in the nursery encourage children to develop positive attitudes towards people who are different from them. Our curriculum encourages children to empathise with others and to begin to develop the skills of critical thinking.

We do this by:

- Identifying a key person for each child who will ensure that each child's care is tailored to meet their individual needs and continuously observe, assess and plan for their individual learning and development
- Listening to children (verbally and non-verbally) and making children feel included, valued and good about themselves
- Ensuring that we know what each child knows and "can do" and have equal access to tailored early learning and play opportunities
- Reflecting the widest possible range of communities in the choice of resources
- Avoiding stereotypical or derogatory images in the selection of materials
- Acknowledging and celebrating a wide range of religions, beliefs and festivals
- Creating an environment of mutual respect
- Supporting children to talk about their feelings and those of others, manage emotions and develop empathy
- Helping children to understand that discriminatory behaviour and remarks are unacceptable
- Knowing children well, being able to meet their needs and know when they require further support
- Ensuring that all early learning opportunities offered are inclusive of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and children from disadvantaged backgrounds
- Adjusting the environment and resources to accommodate a wide range of learning, physical and sensory impairments.
- Differentiating the curriculum to meet children's special educational needs
- Ensuring that children whose first language is not English have full access to our early learning opportunities and are supported in their learning
- Working in partnership with all families to ensure they understand the policy and challenge any discriminatory comments made
- Ensuring the medical, cultural and dietary needs of all children are met and help.
- Children learn about a range of food and cultural approaches to mealtimes and respect the differences among them.

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 to 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 a flexible system of payment for families of differing means and offer information regarding sources of financial support.
- We take positive action to encourage disadvantaged and under-represented groups to use the setting.

Meetings

Information about the nursery, its activities, experiences, and resources are shared with parents/carers as well as information about their child's development. This is given in a variety of ways according to individual needs (written, verbal and translated), to ensure that all parents can access the information they need.

Wherever possible, meetings are arranged to give all families opportunities to attend and share information about their child.

We also consult with parents/carers regularly about the running of the nursery and ask them to contribute their ideas.

Monitoring and reviewing

So that our policies are effective, we monitor and review them annually to ensure that our strategies meet the overall aims to promote equality, inclusion and value diversity. We provide a Complaints Procedure and a Complaints Summary Record for parents to see.

Date: September 2024

By: Danny Webb

Review date: September 2025