**Mucky Pups Preschool**

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**Inclusion and Equality Policy**

**Aim**

*This policy aims to ensure that all children, families and staff are treated as individuals irrespective and without discrimination.*

***Statement of intent***

*Mucky Pups Pre-School takes great care to treat each individual as a person in their own right, with equal rights and responsibilities to any other individual, whether they are an adult or a child. Mucky Pups is 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 maternity, ethnic or national origin, or political belief has no place within this setting.*

Should anyone believe that this policy is not being upheld, it is their duty to report the matter to the attention of the Manager (or Deputy on manager’s absence) at the earliest opportunity. Appropriate steps will then be taken to investigate the matter and if such concerns are well-founded, disciplinary action will follow.

The Manager of the setting is: Jean Wills The Deputy Manager for the setting is: Stephanie Simpson

The legal framework for this policy is based on:

* Equality Act 2010
* Children Act 2004
* Care Standards Act 2002
* Childcare Act 2006
* Special Educational Needs and Disability code of practice: 0-25 years

**Mucky Pups Pre-School and staff are committed to:**

* Recruiting, selecting, training and promoting individuals on the basis of occupational skills requirements. In this respect, the setting 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
* Providing a childcare place, wherever possible, for children who may have learning difficulties and/or disabilities or are deemed disadvantaged according to their individual circumstances
* Making reasonable adjustments for children with special educational needs and disabilities
* 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
* Providing a secure environment in which all our 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
* 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 setting, 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 setting is accessible to all children and families in the local community and further afield through a comprehensive and inclusive admissions policy.
* The setting will strive to ensure that all services and projects are accessible and relevant to all groups and individuals in the community within targeted age groups.

**Recruitment**

* All members of the selection group will be committed to the inclusive practice set out in this policy.
* Senior management regular attend and renew Safer Recruitment training.
* Application forms will not include questions that potentially discriminate on the grounds specified in the statement of intent.
* 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 candidates acquired outside the selection process.
* Candidates will be given the opportunity to receive feedback on the reasons why they were not successful.

**Staff**

At Mucky Pups Pre-School, all staff are expected to;

* Co-operate with the implementation, monitoring and improvement of this and other policies.
* 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.
* Follow the *Whistleblowing policy* where applicable to report any discriminatory behaviours observed.

**Training**

Mucky Pups 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.
* All staff take art in a yearly cycle of Appraisal and supervision meetings
* All staff have access to Noodle Now training for setting focused training, individual and personal Continuous Professional Development alongside courses and training from providers other than Noodle Now

**Early learning framework**

Early learning opportunities offered in Mucky Pups 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.
* Ensuring that all children have equal access to 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 and empathy.
* Helping children to understand that discriminatory behaviour and remarks are unacceptable.
* Ensuring that all early learning opportunities offered are inclusive of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and children from disadvantaged backgrounds.
* Ensuring that children whose first language is not English have full access to 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 children are met.

Having a dedicated named person who is responsible for overseeing and co-ordinating our inclusive and non-discriminatory practice. (ENCO)

The named ENCO (Equalities named co-ordinator is):

Date policy adopted on: 2nd September 2023 Date for review: 2nd September 2024

Signed: J E Wills Position: Manager