



Registered Charity No. 1038425  
Village Hall, Newport Road, Hanslope MK19 7NZ  
[www.hanslopepreschool.org](http://www.hanslopepreschool.org)

# Valuing Diversity and Promoting Inclusion and Equality

Date adopted: 23.06.2020

## Policy statement

We are committed to ensuring that our service is fully inclusive in meeting the needs of the children.

We recognise that children and their families come from a wide range of backgrounds with individual needs, beliefs, and values. They may grow up in family structures that include one or two parents of the same or different sex. Children may have close links or live with extended families or grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins; while others may be more removed from close kin or may live with other relatives or foster carers. Some children come from families who experience social exclusion, severe hardship; discrimination and prejudice because of their ethnicity, disability and/or ability, the languages they speak, their religious or personal beliefs, their sexual orientation and marital status. Some individuals face discrimination linked to their gender and some women are discriminated against because of their pregnancy and maternity status. We understand that all these factors can affect the well-being of children within these families and may adversely impact on children's learning, attainment, and life outcomes.

Hanslope Pre-school is committed to anti-discriminatory practice to promote equality of opportunity and valuing diversity for all children and families using our setting.

We aim to:

- Promote equality and value diversity within our service and foster good relations with the local community.
- Actively include all families and value the positive contribution they make to our service.
- Promote a positive non-stereotyping environment that promotes dignity, respect and understanding of differences in all forms.
- Provide a secure and accessible environment in which every child feels safe and equally included.
- Improve our knowledge and understanding of issues of anti-discriminatory practice.
- Challenge and eliminate discriminatory actions based on a protected characteristic as defined by the Equality Act (2010) namely.
  - Age.
  - Gender.
  - Gender assignment.
  - Marital status.
  - Pregnancy and maternity.
  - Race.
  - Disability.
  - Sexual orientation.
  - Religion or belief.
- Where possible, take positive action to benefit groups or individuals with protected characteristics who are disadvantaged, have a disproportional representation within the service or need different things from the service.

## Procedures

### Admissions

Our Pre-school is open and accessible to all members of the community.

- We base our admissions policy on a fair system.
- We do not discriminate against a child or their family, in our service provision, including preventing their entry to our Pre-school, based on a protected characteristic as defined by the Equalities Act (2010).
- We advertise our service widely.
- We provide information in clear, concise language, whether in spoken or written form and provide information in other languages (wherever possible) or on request.
- We reflect diversity of our community and wider society in our publicity and promotional materials.
- We provide information on our offer of provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities.
- We ensure that all parents and carers are made aware of our Valuing Diversity and Promoting Equality Policy.
- We make reasonable adjustments to ensure that disabled children can participate successfully in the services and in the curriculum offered by the setting.

- We do not discriminate against a child with a disability or refuse a child entry to our Pre-school for any reason relating to disability.
- We ensure wherever possible, that we have a balanced intake of boys and girls in the setting.
- We act against any discriminatory, prejudice, harassing or victimising behaviour by our staff, parents /carers, or volunteers whether by.
- Direct discrimination – someone is treated less favourably because of a protected characteristic e.g. preventing families of a specific ethnic group from using the service.
- Indirect discrimination – someone is affected unfavourably by a general policy e.g. children must only speak English in the Pre-school.
- Discrimination arising from a disability – someone is treated less favourably because of something connected with their disability e.g. a child with a visual impairment excluded from an activity.
- Association – discriminating against someone who is associated with a person with a protected characteristic e.g. behaving unfavourably to someone who is married to a person from a different cultural background; or
- Perception – discrimination on the basis that it is thought someone has a protected characteristic e.g. making assumptions about someone's sexual orientation.
- We will not tolerate behaviour from an adult who demonstrates dislike or prejudice towards individuals who are perceived to be from another country (xenophobia).
- Display of openly discriminatory xenophobia and possibly offensive or threatening materials, name calling, or threatening behaviour are unacceptable on or around the premises and will be dealt with immediately and discreetly by asking the adult to stop using unacceptable behaviour and inviting them to read and to act in accordance with the relevant policy statement and procedure. Failure to comply may lead to the adult being excluded from the premises.

### **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 use the 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 suitability checks. This ensures fairness in the selection process.
- All job descriptions include a commitment to promoting 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.
- We ensure that staff are confident and fully trained in administering relevant prescribed medication and performing invasive care procedures when these are required.
- We review our practices to ensure that we are fully implementing our policy for Valuing Diversity and Promoting Equality.

### **Curriculum**

The curriculum offered in the Pre-school encourages children to develop positive attitudes about themselves as well as to people who are different from themselves. It encourages development of confidence and self-esteem, empathy, critical thinking and reflection.

### **Environment**

We ensure that our practice is fully inclusive by:

- Creating an environment of mutual respect and tolerance.
- Modelling desirable behaviour to children and helping children to understand that discriminatory behaviour and remarks are hurtful and unacceptable.
- 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.
- Ensuring that children learning English as an additional language have full access to the curriculum and are supported in their learning.
- Ensuring that disabled children with and without special educational needs are fully supported.
- Ensuring that children speaking languages other than English are supported in the maintenance and development of their home languages.
- We will make ensure that our Pre-school environment is accessible as possible for all visitors and service users. We do this by.

- Undertaking an access audit to establish if the Pre-school is accessible to all disabled children and adults. If the access to the setting is found to treat disabled children or adults less favourably, then we make reasonable adjustments to accommodate the needs of the disabled children and adults.
- Fully differentiating the environment, resources, and curriculum to accommodate a wide range of learning, physical and sensory needs.

**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 Pre-school.
- We encourage mothers, fathers, and other carers to take part in the life of the Pre-school and to contribute fully.
- For families who speak languages in addition to English, we will develop means to encourage their full inclusion.
- We offer a flexible payment system for families experiencing financial difficulties and offer information regarding sources of financial support.
- We take positive action to encourage disadvantaged and under-represented groups to use the Pre-school.

**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 wherever possible.
- 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 Pre-school.
- 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 where resources allow in translation - to ensure that all mothers, fathers and carers have information about and access to the 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 to value diversity.
- We provide a complaints procedure and a complaints summary record for parents and carers to see.

**Public Sector Equality Duty**

- We have regard to the Duty to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

**Legal framework**

- The Equality Act (2010)
- Children Act (1989) and (2004)
- Children and Families Act (2014)
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Code of Practice (2014)

**Other useful Early Years Alliance publications**

Guide to the Equality Act and Good Practice (2015)  
 SEND Code of Practice 2014 for the Early Years (2014)  
 Where's Dad? (2009)

This policy was adopted by Hanslope Pre-school on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020

Date to be reviewed 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021

Signed on behalf of Hanslope Pre-school .....

By Sophia Sikora Secretary on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020