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PROMOTING INCLUSION, EQUALITY AND VALUING DIVERSITY POLICY – COLLEGE NURSERIES

<p>Leicester College Day Nursery EYFS The Learning and Development Requirements</p>

1. POLICY INTENT

- 1.1. This Policy works in conjunction with our procedures in Promoting inclusion, equality and diversity.
- 1.2. Leicester College has inclusion as one of its core values. This governs the way we work with each other and our approach to all our students and stakeholders.
- 1.3. We are proud to be located in a city such as Leicester, and value the diversity of all the communities we serve. We acknowledge and celebrate the different backgrounds, cultures, languages, abilities and beliefs of our students and staff. The College aims to promote community cohesion, and to provide a safe and harmonious learning environment where everyone feels that they belong.
- 1.4. Nursery staff are aware of the College’s statutory duties in relation to equality and diversity, full details of which are in the Leicester College Equality and Diversity Policy (SS008). The head of Equality and Diversity at Leicester College is Gail Pringle:
gpringle@leicestercollege.ac.uk
- 1.5. All early years settings must consider and meet relevant employer and service provider duties as set out in the Equality Act (2010). Those in receipt of funding must eliminate discrimination including indirect, direct discrimination, discrimination and harassment based on association and perception, and discrimination for reasons relating to a disability or by failing to make a reasonable adjustment to any provision, criterion, or practice. This duty is anticipatory. Settings must advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations with individuals and groups with protected characteristics namely disability, race (ethnicity), religion and belief, sexual orientation, sex (gender), gender reassignment, age, pregnancy and maternity, marriage, and civil partnership.

2. AIM

- 2.1. Our provision actively promotes inclusion, equality of opportunity and the valuing of diversity.

3. OBJECTIVES

3.1. We support the definition of inclusion as stated by the Early Childhood Forum:

'Inclusion is the process of identifying, understanding and breaking down the barriers to participation and belonging.'

3.2. We interpret this as consisting of several tasks and processes in relation not only to children but also to parents and visitors in the setting. These tasks and processes include awareness and knowledge of relevant barriers to inclusion for those with a protected characteristic namely:

- disability
- gender reassignment
- pregnancy and maternity
- race
- religion or belief
- sexual orientation
- sex (gender)
- age
- marriage or civil partnership (in relation to employment).

3.3. This includes unlawful behaviour towards people with protected characteristics. Unlawful behaviour being direct discrimination, indirect discrimination, associative discrimination, discrimination by perception, harassment, and victimisation. In addition, we are aware of the inequality that users facing socio-economic disadvantage may also encounter. We will not tolerate behaviour from an adult which demonstrates discrimination and/or prejudice towards groups and individuals who originate from or are living outside of the UK (xenophobia). This also applies to discriminatory or prejudicial behaviour towards specific groups of people and individuals who are British Citizens residing in the UK.

3.4. We promote understanding and acceptance of diversity and difference - through training and staff development - the causes and effects of discrimination of any kind on both adults and children and the long- term impact of discrimination; the need to protect children from discrimination and ensure that childcare practice is both equitable and inclusive; the need for relevant support to allow children to develop into confident adults with a strong positive self-identity.

3.5. We develop practice that includes:

- Developing an environment which reflects the 'kaleidoscope' of factors that can provide settings with a myriad of influences and ideas for exploring and celebrating difference.
- Ensuring that barriers to inclusion are identified and removed or minimised wherever possible.
- Understanding, supporting and promoting the importance of identity for all children and recognising that this comprises multiple facets which are shaped by a 'kaleidoscope' of factors including British values, 'race'\ethnicity and culture, gender, difference of ability, social class, language, religion and belief, and family form and lifestyle, which combine uniquely in the identity of each individual; for example, we welcome and promote bi/multi-lingualism and the use of alternative communication formats such as sign language, and we promote gender equality while at the same time recognising the differences in play preferences and developmental timetables of some girls and boys.

- Recognising that this 'kaleidoscope' also reflects negative images which may be internalised and negatively affect the development of self-concept, self-esteem, and confidence.
- Promoting a welcoming atmosphere that genuinely appreciates British values, different cultural and personal perspectives, without stereotyping and prejudicing cultures and traditions on raising children, by always involving parents.
- Promoting community cohesion and creating an environment that pre-empts acts of discrimination so that they do not arise.
- Recruitment of staff to reflect cultural and language diversity, disabled staff, and staff of both genders.
- Addressing discrimination as it occurs from children in a sensitive, age-appropriate manner to ensure that everyone involved understands the situation and are offered reassurance and support to achieve resolution.
- Challenging discriminatory behaviour from parents, staff or outside agencies or individuals that affect the well-being of children and the early years community.
- Creating an ethos within which staff work confidently within a culturally complex environment; learning when to change or adapt practice in the setting and having the confidence to challenge practice (including parental) that is not in the child's best interest, seeking support and intervention from agencies where appropriate.
- Ensuring that practitioners work closely with the Special Educational Needs Coordinator to make sure that the additional needs of all children are identified and met.
- We are aware of anti-discriminatory legislation and able to use it to shape the service and support parents and children against discrimination in the local community, for example, against asylum seekers, the Travelling Community and same sex parents.
- We regularly monitor and review our practice including long-term preventative measures to ensure equality such as assessment of our provision, ensuring equality, diversity and inclusion are part of our development plan, applying impact measurements and positive actions. In addition, short term measures such as recognition and assessment of children's additional support needs (e.g. impairment, home language, family hardship, specific family beliefs and practices), day-to-day activities, provision of suitable support and resources, activity programme and curriculum, assessment, recognition of special educational needs and developing inclusive relationships.

4. LEGAL REFERENCES

- General Data Protection Regulation 2018
- Children and Families Act 2014 Part 3
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice 2015
- Disability Equality Duty 2011
- Equality Act 2010
- Prevent Strategy 2015

4.1. Further guidance

- Guide to the Equality Act and Good Practice (Alliance Publication)

5. COMMUNICATION AND REVIEW

5.1. This policy will be shared with parents and reviewed every three years.