

St Marychurch Pre-school

Equality and Diversity Policy

Statement of intent

St Marychurch Pre-school is committed to treating all children and families, as individuals and with equal concern, by providing equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children and families.

Aim

We aim to:

- Provide a secure environment in which all our children can flourish and in which all contributions are valued.
- Include and value the contribution of all families to our understanding of equality and diversity.
- Provide positive non-stereotyping information about gender roles, diverse ethnic and cultural groups and people with disabilities.
- Improve our knowledge and understanding of issues of anti-discriminatory practice, promoting equality and valuing diversity.
- Make inclusion a thread that runs through all of the activities of the setting.

The legal framework for this policy is

- Equality Act 2010

Methods

Admissions

Our setting is open to all members of the community.

- We ensure that all parents are made aware of our equal opportunities policy.
- We do not discriminate against a child or their family, or prevent entry to our setting, on the basis of colour, ethnicity, religion or social background.
- We do not discriminate against a child with a disability or refuse a child entry to our setting because of any disability.
- We take action against any discriminatory behaviour by practitioners or parents. Displaying of openly racist insignia, distribution of racist material, name calling, or threatening behaviour are unacceptable on or around the premises and will be dealt with in the strongest manner.

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.
- The applicant who best meets the criteria is offered the post, subject to references and checks by the Criminal Records Bureau. This ensures fairness in the selection process.
- All job descriptions include a commitment to equality and diversity as part of their specifications.

Training

- We seek out training opportunities for practitioners and volunteers to enable them to develop anti-discriminatory and inclusive practices, which enable all children to flourish.
- We review our practices to ensure that we are fully implementing our policy for equality diversity and inclusion.

Curriculum

The curriculum offered in the setting encourages children to develop positive attitudes about themselves as well as to people who are different from themselves.

We do this by:

- Making children feel valued and good about themselves.
- Ensuring that children have equality of access to learning.
- Recognising the different learning styles of girls and boys, making appropriate provision within the curriculum to ensure each child receives the widest possible opportunity to develop their skills and abilities.
- 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
- Creating an environment of mutual respect and tolerance.
- Helping children to understand that discriminatory behaviour and remarks are hurtful and unacceptable.
- Ensuring that the curriculum offered is inclusive of children with special educational needs and children with disabilities.
- Ensuring that children learning English as an additional language have full access to the curriculum and are supported in their learning.
- Ensuring that children speaking languages other than English are supported in the maintenance and development of their home languages.

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 parents/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.
- Where children with English as an additional language have learning difficulties we would work in partnership with the Torbay Council Advisory team for Ethnic Minority Achievement and English as an Additional Language team.

Food

- We would work in partnership with parents to ensure that the medical, cultural and dietary needs of children are met.
- 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 setting.

Our designated Equality and Diversity person is Johanne Pickering

Signed: _____

Position: Chairperson

Dated: _____

We aim to provide a safe, stimulating, caring, happy Pre-school where all children and their families are welcome. We provide a curriculum based on the Early Years Foundation Stage using individual children's interest and needs.