

## **14. Involving and Consulting Children Policy**

### **14.1 Statement of intent**

Our pre-school and all its members of staff are committed to the principle of involving and consulting children whenever possible. Age and understanding and the type of decision being made will determine the extent and nature of children's involvement. However, we recognise the positive effects on the group and welcome the contribution and involvement of all children within the setting. We believe that actively promoting the participation of children in decision-making is beneficial to children, staff and the pre-school as a whole.

### **14.2 Aim**

We aim to involve and consult children this stems from the "listening to children" provisions set out in the "United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child". These state in article 12 "Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them and to have their opinions taken into account". Article 31; "All children have a right to relax and play and to join in a wide range of activities". Children should have a range of accessible information which is taking into consideration their age and understanding in a way that enables them to make choices and decisions.

### **14.3 Methods**

At the pre-school all children will be listened to and consulted actively. We recognise by doing this it helps them to develop new skills such as negotiating, sharing, listening and understanding opinions of others. It helps them to understand how decisions are made and recognises that their opinions are important. We work with parents/carers to draw up policies and procedures that set out the responsibilities of the pre-school. We involve parents/carers through regular newsletters, committee meetings, notice boards, correspondence, face-to-face communication and periodic questionnaires. We involve value and implement the children's ideas when setting rules and boundaries within their play environment; taken in consideration their age, development and the type of decision being made. We recognise the benefits of these methods such as improved behaviour, working together as a group, a better understanding of the expectations of the setting and a sense of belonging. We also use the following:

- Listening to what they say in speech and other forms of communication such as sign, visual pictures
- Observing body language and behaviour
- Role Play activities
- Through play and creative expression and the use of visual arts
- Through regular circle times and play activities
- Parent-home assessment
- Choosing board
- Parent link activities
- Through "All About Me" books where parents, carers and children can share information
- Bounce leaflet
- Observations on use of resources and equipment
- Regular evaluation of activities and play equipment
- Provide additional support, visual aids/pictures to help quieter children or children with additional needs to make choices for themselves and communicate without having the pressure of using their talking voice if they are able to, or not ready

Consultation and involvement will be regularly monitored and acted upon so that all children are able to see that their input has led to visible outcomes. We will also offer clear expectations at their level if and when consultation and involvement is not possible to carry out.

This policy was reviewed and adopted at a meeting of Walton Under Fives Pre-School held in March 2018

Signed (Pre School Leader) ..... Date .....

Signed (Committee Chair) ..... Date .....