



Care, Learning and Play Policy

VERSION/DATE:	October 2026
NEXT VERSION DUE BY:	October 2027

"The programme of activities and the atmosphere of our Nursery aims to encourage confidence, independence and enjoyment. Our aim is to enable children to develop their emotional, social, cognitive, interpersonal and physical skills, and their desire to explore, discover and be creative."

The Nursery will provide a well-planned and organised play environment that offers children rich and stimulating experiences, alongside opportunities to explore, experiment, plan, problem solve and make decisions for themselves. The range of activities will recognise and consider the different ages, interests, backgrounds and abilities of all children. The children will also be offered access to both the indoor and outdoor environment every day, regardless of weather conditions.

Activities both indoors and outdoors are carefully planned and enhanced to allow children to build on their natural curiosity, advance their thinking, use their imagination and develop positive social relationships. At all times, the Nursery will recognise a child's individuality, effort and achievements. Children are given the free choice to play indoors and outdoors so we ask that appropriate clothing is provided.

Skill-based planning will be carried out following constant visual observations of the children noting what they enjoy and at what stage of development their play is at. This allows staff to consider and enhance the environment and to extend upon play/activities at the appropriate times. The Nursery will provide children with a range of equipment and resources appropriate to their stage and interests, according to the provisions of the Equipment policy. The Manager of the Nursery will ensure that time is managed properly to allow staff to reflect upon and identify the needs, skills and next steps of the children that they care for.

This is supported by the use of Tapestry. Through the sharing of information both Parents and Staff provide valuable information in relation to a child's development creating a learning journey of photographic observations, play opportunities and valuable learning experiences as well as the sharing of next steps and future progression.

Staff will also monitor and carry out regular development assessments in the form of Two-Year-Old checks, Assessments within the Prime areas of learning and the WellComm screening tool allowing staff to provide and plan for children's next steps. Staff will carry out these assessments on a regular basis sharing information with parents/carers and staff on a need to know basis also through parent review sessions with key carers. We frequently send home WellComm packs to parents so that further support can be offered for each child to help support their development.

In addition to this, staff also provide a range of small group and one to one intervention times throughout the day. This helps to support children with important life skills including; Personal, Social and Emotional and their Communication and Language Development.

Staffing arrangements will provide opportunities for:

- Reflection on practice
- Recognition that working with children is complex and challenging and that often there are no easy answer
- That learning is a shared process and that children learn most effectively when, with the support of a knowledgeable and trusted adult, they are actively involved and interested.

Staff will display flexible styles of leadership and respond appropriately to children according to their age, understanding and individual needs.

Staff will support, recognise and promote achievements by all children through positive communication and language. This is also supported by offering areas within the room as well as a 'Learning Wall' to display the children's own achievements that are celebrated and shared with parents at the end of each week.