

# Early Years Practice

## Policy

***\*\*\*At St Joseph's Pre-School Unit we recognise that every child deserves the best possible start in life. Children develop quickly in the early years foundation stage and a child's experiences between birth and five years have a major impact on their future life chances. A secure, safe and happy childhood is important in its own right, good parenting and good quality early years learning together provide the foundation children need to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow\*\*\****

### Aims

The principles set out in this policy aim to ensure that St Joseph's Pre-School Unit;

- Provides an environment where children can feel safe, happy and motivated to learn.
- The children attending St Joseph's Pre-School Unit receive quality teaching and learning, and access opportunities to develop new skills in "School Readiness".
- Meets the requirements as set out in the EYFS statutory requirements.

### Objectives

#### **At St Joseph's Pre-School Unit:**

- The children in our care are supported to form a secure attachment to their key person when they join the setting helping them to feel safe, happy and eager learn.
- The needs of part-time children are considered.
- There are procedures for when children do not settle and for prolonged absences.
- There are Introduction and welcome sessions for parents and children before children start.
- *There are daily* opportunities to promote 'tuning-in' to the child emotionally and to create opportunities for learning. We actively promote British values, inclusion, equality of opportunity and the valuing of diversity.
- We operate a positive behaviour management approach. Our behaviour management procedures cover how staff will respond to all aspects of behaviour, including children who exhibit challenging behaviour towards other children.

## **Learning at St Joseph's Pre-School Unit:**

1. Learning is a lifelong process, which enables children and adults to contribute to and shape their world.
2. We want the curriculum we provide to help children to learn to:
  - be confident and independent
  - be aware of and responsive to their feelings
  - make caring and thoughtful relationships with other people
  - become increasingly excited by, interested in, and knowledgeable and questioning about the world around them.
3. We provide a wide range of interesting child-chosen and adult-initiated activities which:
  - give children opportunities to use all their senses
  - help children of different ages and stages to play together
  - help children be the directors of their own learning
  - help children develop an inquiring and questioning attitude to the world around them

The *Early Years Foundation Stage* is used as a framework to provide care and learning opportunities for our children.

## **Children (2-5 years)**

- At St Joseph's Pre-School Unit we recognise that for children to feel securely settled and ready to learn, they need to form attachments with the adults who care for them, primarily to a key person.

## **Waiting list and admissions**

St Joseph's Pre-School Unit is accessible to children and families from all sections of the local and wider community. We aim to ensure that all information is accessible and that our admissions procedures are fair, clear, and open to all parents who apply for places. The availability of a space at the Pre-School considers staff/child ratios, the age of the child and our registration requirements.

- We endeavour to operate in an inclusive manner which enables all children and families to access our services.
- We also have regard for the needs of parents who are:
  - looking to take up work, remain in work or extend their hours of work

- looking to commence training or education
- We work in partnership with the local authority and other agencies to ensure that our provision is accessible to all sections of the community.
- Services are widely advertised, and information is accessible to all sections of the community.
- Where the number of children wanting places exceeds the number of places available a waiting list is operated using clear criteria for allocation of places as detailed in our waiting list and admissions procedures.

## **Funded places – free entitlement**

All 3- and 4-year-olds in England are entitled to 15 hours free childcare and early education each week for 38 weeks of the year. Some children also receive extended entitlement which provides up to 30 hours of childcare each week, and some eligible two-year-olds are also entitled to 15 hours free childcare. Funded places are offered in accordance with national and local codes of practice and adherence to the relevant Provider Agreement/Contract with the local authority (Devon County Council).

### **Legal References**

Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001

Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice (DfE and DHSC 2014)

Equality Act 2010

Childcare Act 2006