

# **Smallville Nursery Behaviour Policy 2022**

**Revised February 2023**

## Smallville Nursery Behaviour Policy 2021

At Smallville Nursery we seek to develop an ethos of mutual respect for all. Encouraging such an awareness of the mutual needs and rights of others is an integral part of the nursery curriculum. As children learn by example. We believe that all staff should model an awareness and respect for the needs and rights of every child.

### **Aims of and commitment to promoting positive behaviour:**

- To create an environment where positive behaviour and social responsibility is encouraged by reinforcement and praise; this approach helps to raise the child's self-esteem and promotes self-discipline.
- Staff are consistent and fair in their response to each child.
- To inform parents and carers of our policy and approach and to encourage their cooperation and support.
- To create a positive and effective learning environment where each child may develop a caring attitude and value others.

### **Procedures for encouraging positive and acceptable behaviour**

- Praise and acknowledge positive actions and attitudes. Express the child's feelings by naming them e.g. I can see that you are frustrated, you look lonely etc. – using the colour monster to support understanding
- Create a learning environment that promotes curiosity and allows the child to follow and develop their interests; when a child is interested and is engaged in meaningful and play then positive self-discipline tends to be more apparent.
- To encourage each child to verbalise their feelings in a non-aggressive manner e.g. 'I don't like what you are saying /doing' or simply 'Stop'. 'That makes me feel sad'. As the adult, it is our role to help each child understand his/her emotions and also to help them acquire the reasoning skills needed to deal with different and sometimes difficult situations.
- Teach negotiation skills such as 'If you, then I.... or How about if.....?'
- Continued use of circle time when children are given an opportunity to share ideas and suggestions or to discuss a 'problem' in an open environment.
- To help children recognise that fighting, hurting, inappropriate use of language and other similar actions are not acceptable behaviour.
- Developmentally appropriate use of 'rules' which are essentially for the safety and wellbeing of the children. E.g. walking feet, kind hands etc...
- Speaking in an appropriate and respectful way to each child thus modelling positive communication strategies.
- **Tell children what they can do as opposed to what they can't.**
- Use choices when possible. Which would you like to do first?
- To encourage co-operative experiences and collaboration where children are involved in turn taking and their contribution is valued as part of a group.

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- To promote routines that will help children develop caring attitudes and respect for others, the environment and equipment eg snack/meal times, circle time, tidying up and helping each other.

**Whilst it is important to respect the needs of the child it is also necessary to take into account the effect the behaviour is having on other children in the area and the safety of the children in the room.**

### **Rights and Responsibilities**

For learning to occur in a caring, positive, supportive and co-operative environment all parents, children and staff have a set of rights and responsibilities which must be recognised and understood.

<b>Rights</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>
<b>Children</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- To be educated in a safe and well managed learning environment.</li><li>- To be treated fairly, consistently and with respect</li><li>- To experience a broad, balanced and suitably differentiated curriculum that is adapted to the needs of the child</li><li>- To have the help of an adult when they require it</li><li>- To have their views listened to</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- To respect the views, rights and property of others and behave safely in the preschool setting</li><li>- To take responsibility for their behaviour and to develop the skill of working independently</li><li>- To identify a better choice when they make a mistake and to learn from it</li><li>- To ask for help if they do not understand or require assistance</li><li>- To listen to the person who is meant to be speaking</li></ul>
<b>Staff</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- To be respected by children, staff and parents</li><li>- To deliver the curriculum in a safe and adequately resourced environment</li><li>- To be supported by parents in the effective delivery of their child's education and care</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- To create a stimulating, happy learning environment</li><li>- To listen to the children, value their contributions and respect their views</li><li>- To develop a positive relationship with parents and carers</li><li>- To ensure the curriculum is broad, balanced and suitably differentiated to meet the needs of the pupils</li><li>- To share with parents any concerns they have about their child's progress and development</li></ul>

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<b>Parents:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To have a safe, well managed and stimulating environment for their child's learning/care</li> <li>- To experience a broad, balanced and appropriate curriculum for their child</li> <li>- To be informed about rules, rewards and consequences</li> <li>- To be informed promptly if their child is ill or has an accident</li> </ul>	<b>Parents:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To act as a positive role model for their child in their relationship with nursery</li> <li>- To ensure that their child attends regularly and is suitable prepared for the day ahead</li> <li>- To be aware of the nursery rules, rewards and consequences and encourage their child to abide by the rules</li> <li>- To provide the preschool with relevant</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To be informed of progress in learning and achievements or any concerns staff may hold in relation to their child</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>background information about their child, including any concerns they may have about them or any changes in the child's circumstances</li> <li>- To show an interest in their child's education/care and attend planned meetings</li> <li>- To support staff team in implementing the school's behaviour policy.</li> </ul>

Children in nursery are cognitively, socially, emotionally and physically developing a sense of right and wrong in everything they do. Developmentally they are at a stage where they are extending their understanding of the concept of rules and consequences.

### **Our Nursery Rules:**

The rules are the behaviours the staff desire to see in nursery. They promote the safety of the children and the staff and help children develop a sense of responsibility for their actions and an understanding of the effect their actions may have.

The rules in nursery are:

1. We use talking voices inside.
2. We use walking feet inside
3. We keep our hands and feet to ourselves.
4. We listen to others.
5. We share and take turns

### **Rewards**

The rewards promote good behaviour and help children to see that good behaviour is valued. Rewards encourage the children to take responsibility for their actions and promote self-esteem.

All children have a need for positive affirmation and most respond well to verbal praise and social approval. Praise and positive feedback will be the basis of the reward system.

1. Kind words or praise from the nursery staff.
2. Positive note home / handover with parents

### Consequences

Staff will provide positive feedback for acceptable behaviour to all children. There may be occasions when consequences may need to be applied for inappropriate behaviour. Staff will deal with behaviour in a calm and positive manner. Corrective strategies will be selected from a graded hierarchy. In applying a consequence staff will acknowledge the child's feelings and focus on the behaviour rather than the child. The consequence selected will take account of the age and stage of development of the child and any other relevant factors. Staff will use their discretion, always aiming to make the response appropriate to the behaviour.

- The range of corrective strategies to deal with appropriate behaviour will include: tactical ignoring, eye contact, a gesture, visual aids or social stories.
- Reminding the child of the behaviour expectation e.g. I need you to keep the sand in the sandpit, thank you.
- **Verbal redirection e.g. let's go and play in another area, thank you.**
- The adult may repeat the direction e.g. I need you to keep the sand in the sandpit, thank you.
- Offering choices e.g. I need you to put the toy away during story time. You can give it to me or put it in the box. What are you going to do?
- On some occasions there may be a related consequence e.g. Cleaning up a mess or encouraging the child to apologise.

Our consequences in nursery are:

1. Verbal warning - If a child misbehaves at an activity then they will be warned verbally not to repeat the unwanted behaviour and given the reasons as to why it is inappropriate.
2. Redirection to a new activity - If they repeat the behaviour then they will be asked to leave the activity to an area of their own choice.
3. Contact with home - The final consequence means that Parents will be informed about the behaviour.

Every day is a new day with respect to behaviour.

If a child hurts another child then a discussion will ensue as to why it happened, how it happened and how everyone feels. We will further discuss our school rules. Then the child(ren) will be asked to apologise.

Parents will only be informed if their child is repeatedly misbehaving and we have therefore reached the final consequence or if an extreme incident happens.

Examples of behaviours which we consider extremely serious - -

Racist remarks

- Inappropriate touching
- Biting other people

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- Threatening behaviours, including persistent swearing, spitting - Persistently hurting others.

When the above strategies have been ineffective in addressing the difficulty, procedures to meet the needs of the child will be followed. Consultation with parents will take place in this process and consent from the parents to consult with external agencies will be required.

In meeting the child's additional specialist interventions may be required e.g.

- Implementation of an individual education/behaviour plan
- A reporting system (to allow staff and parents to monitor behaviour and attitude)
- Support from external agencies e.g. Education and Library Board's Psychology Service or Behaviour support team or medical agencies.

Where these have been ineffective in serious or extreme cases:

- A shortened day may be more appropriate in order that the child's experience of school is a positive one.
- In certain circumstances we may phone the parents/carers and request they collect their child.
- Suspension
- Expulsion

### **Use of reasonable force**

Under duty of care staff hold in relation to all children, staff may use a physical intervention for the purpose of preventing a pupil from doing any of the following:

- Committing an offence
- Causing personal injury to or damage to the property of any person including themselves
- Engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or among any of its pupils.

Where there is unforeseen need physical intervention a full risk assessment of the child's needs will be conducted and a positive handling plan will be developed and implemented in conjunction with the parents.