****

Education, Encouragement, Enjoyment

****

# Meadow Nursery School

## Policies and Procedures

**Introduction**

**Date: 03/2020**

**Introduction**

Policies and procedures are essential to help you provide good quality provision that is compliant with the *Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage* (EYFS). They do this by explaining to staff and parents about the type of childcare offered and what actions the setting takes in practice to achieve this. The EYFS requires providers to have written policies and procedures; and to provide staff with training at induction to ensure that they fully understand, and know how to implement, the policies and procedures and to ensure that they are accessible and clearly explained to parents.

There are ten overarching Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements within the EYFS, some of which are broken down into further headings, as follows:

* ***Child protection***

Providers must be alert to any issues for concern in the child’s life at home or elsewhere. Providers must have and implement a policy, and procedures, to safeguard children.

* ***Suitable People*** *(also covering Disqualification and Staff Taking Medication/Other Substances)*

Providers must ensure that people looking after children are suitable to fulfil the requirements of their roles.

* ***Staff Qualifications, Training, Support and Skills***

The daily experience of children in early years settings and the overall quality of the provision depends on all practitioners having appropriate qualifications, training, skills and knowledge and a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities.

* ***Key Person***

Each child must be assigned a key person. Their role is to help ensure that every child’s care is tailored to meet their individual needs, to help the child become familiar with the setting, offer a settled relationship for the child and build a relationship with their parents.

* ***Staff:Child Ratios*** *(also covering before/after school care and holiday provision and Childminders)*

Staffing arrangements must meet the needs of children and ensure their safety.

* ***Health*** *(also covering Medicines, Food and Drink and Accident or Injury)*

The provider must promote the good health of children attending the setting. They must have a procedure, discussed with parents and/or carers, for responding to children who are ill or infectious, take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection and take appropriate action if children are ill.

* ***Managing Behaviour***

Providers must have and implement a behaviour management policy and procedures.

* ***Safety and Suitability of Premises, Environment and Equipment*** *(also covering Safety, Smoking, Premises, Risk Assessment and Outings)*

Providers must ensure that their premises, including outdoor spaces, are fit for purpose. Providers must have, and implement a health and safety policy, and procedures, which cover identifying, reporting and dealing with accidents, hazards and faulty equipment.

* ***Special Educational Needs & Disabilities***

Providers must have and implement a policy, and procedures, to promote equality of opportunity for children in their care, including support for children with special educational needs or disabilities.

* ***Information and Records*** *(also covering Information About the Child, Information for Parents and Carers, Complaints, Information About the Provider and Changes that Must be Notified to Ofsted)*

Providers must maintain records and obtain and share information (with parents and carers, other professionals working with the child, and the police, social services and Ofsted as appropriate) to ensure the safe and efficient management of the setting, and to help ensure the needs of all children are met.

Providers must meet all the statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and must take all necessary steps to keep children safe and well. Each of the policies and procedures that providers are required to have in place to do this are provided in this publication and organised under each of the ten Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage as they appear above.

Also included are policies or procedures that the Pre-school Learning Alliance recommends as good practice.

Providers are required to assess risks to children’s safety and review risk assessments regularly; making written risk assessments in relation to specific issues where they determine it will be helpful. Therefore template risk assessments have been included, as in some cases these stand alongside procedures, especially, for example, health and safety procedures.

The overarching policy statement is set out at the start of each section, followed by the relevant procedure describing how the policy will be fulfilled in a consistent and standardised way. References to relevant legislation or guidance are then included at the end of each policy. All staff and parents should be included in adopting, implementing and reviewing policies so that all adults involved can influence the way the setting is run.

*Adopting policies*

* Copies of the policies and procedures to be adopted should be made available to all parents and staff.
* A meeting to discuss and adopt the policies and procedures should be held by the full committee every year. This will enable everyone *to discuss and fully understand each policy statement and procedure.*

**Implementing policies**

* All new parents and staff should be introduced to the setting’s policies and procedures.
* It should be explained to parents and staff that the policies are the rules required for running the setting in a way which complies with the requirements of the EYFS and Ofsted registration and must be adhered to.

**Reviewing policies**

* Each policy and procedure will be reviewed by members of the committee every year. Summary of chanages are shared with the committee and with staff.
* The evidence should be used to make any necessary changes to the policy and procedure and/or the way it is implemented. All changes will be appropriately documented.
* All staff and parents via the committee will contribute to disucssions about any necessary chanages.
* Each year staff will be required to confirm that they have read the policies and procedures during the autumn term.

The enclosed policies are those required by the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements and the Learning and Development Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. If you decide to make any adaptations to any policy, you should ensure it still meets the requirements of the relevant regulations.

As is common pracitce, the nursery school may also decide to develop further policies, which are not required by regulations, but which would enable a clear direction for any specific issue pertaining to the setting.

**Definitions**

Throughout all policies and procedures the term “**parent**” is defined in Section 576 of the Education Act 1996 as: “All natural (biological) parents, whether they are married or not; Any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person.”

The Children Act (1989) defines **parental responsibility** as 'all the rights, duties, powers, responsibilities and authority which by law a parent of a child has in relation to the child and his property’. (For a full explanation of who has parental responsibility, refer to the Pre-school Learning Alliance publication Safeguarding Children.)