



SEVENOAKS DAY NURSERY

Policy on British values and preventing people from being drawn into terrorism

Policy statement

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Nursery's

- Equality of Opportunity policies and procedures
- Safeguarding policies and procedures.

Sevenoaks Day Nursery actively promotes inclusion, equality of opportunity, the valuing of diversity and British values.

Under the Equality Act 2010, which underpins standards of behaviour and incorporates both British and universal values, we have a legal obligation not to directly or indirectly discriminate against, harass or victimise those with protected characteristics. We make reasonable adjustments to procedures, criteria and practices to ensure that those with protected characteristics are not at a substantial disadvantage. As we are in receipt of public funding we also have a public sector equality duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, foster good relations and publish information to show compliance with the duty.

Social and emotional development is shaped by early experiences and relationships and incorporates elements of equality and British and universal values. The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) supports children's earliest skills so that they can become social citizens in an age-appropriate way, that is, so that they are able to listen and attend to instructions; know the difference between right and wrong; recognise similarities and differences between themselves and others; make and maintain friendships; develop empathy and consideration of other people; take turns in play and conversation; avoid risk and take notice of rules and boundaries; learn not to hurt/upset other people with words and actions; understand the consequences of hurtful/discriminatory behaviour.

Procedures

British Values

The fundamental British values of *democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs* are already implicitly embedded in the 2014 EYFS and are further clarified below, based on the *Fundamental British Values in the Early Years* guidance (Foundation Years 2015):

- *Democracy*, or making decisions together (through the prime area of Personal, Social and Emotional Development)
 - As part of the focus on self-confidence and self-awareness, staff encourage children to see their role in the bigger picture, encouraging them to know that their views count, to value each other's views and values, and talk about their feelings, for example, recognising when they do or do not need help.
 - Staff support the decisions that children make and provide activities that involve turn-taking, sharing and collaboration. Children are given opportunities to develop enquiring minds in an atmosphere where questions are valued.
- *Rule of law*, or understanding that rules matter (through the prime area of Personal, Social and Emotional Development)
 - Staff ensure that children understand their own and others' behaviour and its consequence.
 - Staff collaborate with children to create rules and the codes of behaviour, for example, the rules about tidying up, and ensure that all children understand rules apply to everyone.
- *Individual liberty*, or freedom for all (through the prime areas of Personal, Social and Emotional Development, and Understanding the World)
 - Children should develop a positive sense of themselves. Staff provide opportunities for children to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and increase their confidence in their own abilities, for example through allowing children to take risks on an obstacle course, mixing colours, talking about their experiences and learning.
 - Staff encourage a range of experiences that allow children to explore the language of feelings and responsibility, reflect on their differences and understand we are free to have different opinions, for example discussing in a small group what they feel about transferring into Reception Class.
- *Mutual respect and tolerance*, or treating others as you want to be treated (through the prime areas of Personal, Social and Emotional Development, and Understanding the World)

- Staff create an ethos of inclusivity and tolerance where views, faiths, cultures and races are valued and children are engaged with the wider community.
- Children should acquire tolerance, appreciation and respect for their own and other cultures; know about similarities and differences between themselves and others, and among families, faiths, communities, cultures and traditions.
- Staff encourage and explain the importance of tolerant behaviours, such as sharing and respecting other's opinions.
- Staff promote diverse attitudes and challenge stereotypes, for example, sharing stories that reflect and value the diversity of children's experiences and providing resources and activities that challenge gender, cultural or racial stereotyping.

In our Nursery it is not acceptable to:

- actively promote intolerance of other faiths, cultures and races
- fail to challenge gender stereotypes and routinely segregate girls and boys
- isolate children from their wider community
- fail to challenge behaviours (whether of staff, children or parents) that are not in line with the fundamental British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs

Prevent Strategy

Under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 the Nursery also has a duty "to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism"

Our nursery recognises that the protection of children from radicalisation and extremist narratives is a safeguarding issue, hence also being reflected explicitly in our safeguarding policy. Sevenoaks Day Nursery takes this duty very seriously and has the following procedures in place to meet this obligation:

Risk assessment

- As part of its standard safeguarding procedures, the Nursery assesses the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology.
- "Extremism" is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas. Terrorist groups very often draw on extremist ideas developed by extremist organisations.

- In particular, staff are alert to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. Children at risk of radicalisation may display different signs or seek to hide their views. Staff understand that even very young children may be vulnerable to radicalisation by others, whether in the family or outside, and display concerning behaviour.
- Our nursery manager / safeguarding lead is also responsible for ensuring that any user/users operating in shared premises do not undermine our Policy on British values.

Working in partnership

The Nursery works closely with the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) who are responsible for coordinating what is done by local agencies for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in their local area.

Staff training

- At a minimum, a senior member of staff will be trained when required and attend formal training on the Prevent strategy and related matters and will then disseminate this to all other staff.
- The Safeguarding Officer will share their knowledge with all other staff in the Nursery.

IT policies

As children attending the Nursery are not given access to the internet, we do not consider that there is a risk related to them accessing terrorist and extremist material online at the Nursery.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of the Trustees of Sevenoaks Day Nursery on 11th October 2016, and last amended in December 2022.



Susan Dreksler
Chair