



8. Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Policy

This policy links to the following Legislation & Key Guidance

- Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0 – 25 years
January 2015
 - Children & Families Act 2014 - Section 19
 - United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989
- Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage - 2021
 - Working Together to Safeguard Children – July 2018
 - Children Act 1989 & 2004
 - GDPR – May 2018
 - Freedom of Information Act 2000
 - The Human Rights Act 2014
 - Equality Act 2010
 - Education Act 1996
 - Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

Unique Child	Positive Relationships	Enabling Environments	Learning & Development
Every child is a unique child who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.	Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships	Children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and carers.	Children develop and learn in different ways. The framework covers the education and care of all children in early years provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities.

8. Special Educational Needs & Disability

Policy statement

The nursery has regard to the current legislation and guidelines for children with additional needs and will make all reasonable adjustments for the inclusion of all children and aims to ensure the best for each of them as individuals. This approach means that every effort is made to promote a positive climate within the nursery that recognises the right of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities not to stand out from their peers.

We believe that the purpose of education for all children is the same but the help individual children need will be different. (Warnock Report 1978).

Children have special educational needs if they have a learning difficulty/disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for them.

Children have a learning difficulty/disability if they have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of the same age or have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of the facilities of a kind generally provided for children of the same age.

Special Educational Provision means educational provision which is additional to or otherwise different from the educational provision made generally for children of their age.

The Nursery aims to: -

1. Identify a child with special educational needs/disabilities as early as possible.
2. Promote an atmosphere of encouragement, acceptance, and respect for achievements in which all children can thrive.
3. Develop sensitivity to individual needs and a climate of warmth and support in which self-confidence and self-esteem can grow.
4. Develop skills in identifying children with learning problems and construct suitable programmes of work.
5. Adopt positive and consistent strategies to help children with behavioural difficulties and/or emotional problems.
6. Affect a programme of support and referral that will enable all children to receive the help they need quickly and effectively.
7. Inform parents of the needs and progress of their child and to work in partnership with them.
8. Consider the wishes of the child relevant to their age and development

Procedures

- The Nursery has an appointed Special Educational Needs & Disability Coordinator (SENDSCO) who is responsible for coordinating the special needs provision within the nursery.
- The SENDSCO will provide support and advice to staff and parents and liaise with outside agencies and monitor and develop the special needs provision within the Nursery.

Identification, assessment and review

- All Nursery staff members are responsible for the learning and development of all the children in the nursery, including those with special needs/disabilities.
- The child's key person will use observation and assessment to assist in the identification of special needs/disabilities.
- It is the responsibility of all staff to report to the SENDSCO if a special need and/or disability is identified or suspected with any child who attends the nursery.

- The child's key person, SENDCO, and the child's parents will then work together in setting appropriate strategies and programmes of work following a graduated approach (My Profile → My Plan → My Plan+ → EHCP).
- Children's Profile's/Plans are considered when planning nursery activities to ensure inclusion for all.

The Graduated Approach - See attached document for flow charts.

Inclusion

- The Nursery undertakes to ensure that each individual child has access to the full breadth of the early years' curriculum using such strategies as flexible grouping of the children, adapting timetables when necessary and sharing resources and expertise where beneficial.
- Staff will support all children through the differentiation of both planned and unplanned activities. Where appropriate and when possible, staff members are flexible about organizing and managing groups to increase the support available to children with special needs and/or disabilities.
- Nursery teaching and activities are organised to support children with special needs/disabilities in a variety of ways including peer tutoring, appropriate oral language and instructions and support from assistants, parents and cooperative group working.

Resources

- The Nursery recognises the need to provide the maximum amount of assistance for children with special needs/disabilities and accept a variety of means of recording and provide specific aids to learning when appropriate and within the budgetary limitations of the Nursery, using EYPP funding where appropriate.
- The Nursery organises the room and ensures that access to resources is appropriate for all the children's needs. If necessary a child may be given extra 1:1 support.

Partnership with parents

- The Nursery recognises the importance of effective dialogue between staff and parents.
- Parents are consulted and kept informed of their child's progress at every stage and are welcomed into the Nursery to support their child's learning when needed.
- Should any parent be dissatisfied with the Nursery's effort on behalf of their child they will be referred to the SENDCO so that the situation can be investigated and if necessary, altered to better suit the child.
- If the parents are still unhappy with the Nursery special needs provision then they should follow the complaints procedure.

Liaison with other agencies

- The records for any child with special needs/disabilities within the Nursery will be passed (with parental permission) to their primary school and in accordance with Nursery Confidentiality policy.
- Other specialists such as speech therapists, Educational Psychologists, Advisory Teachers, Conductive therapists etc are used to support the progress of children.

Early Help

We recognise that every family is unique with its own combination of strengths and weaknesses. Any family can get overwhelmed by what seems like endless challenge when it comes to juggling money, school and each other's needs. And sometimes families are disrupted by an upheaval such as a mental or physical illness, a job loss, or an addiction. Even "joyful" events such as a wedding or a new job can bring unexpected problems. Every family is different; each needs options from which to choose to find an early solution to challenges as they arise.

This solution could be as simple, for example, as talking with a worker in; a Children's Centre; School; with a voluntary worker; a faith worker; a GP; a health visitor or using a self-help checklist. The Early Help Offer (the Offer) is an approach not a service. It respects every family's right to access information to help manage their own lives successfully, whilst guiding them to seek support from appropriate sources. Help can then be agreed as soon as concerns start to emerge. The 'Offer' is for all children, as issues may arise at any point in a child or young person's life. It includes both universal and targeted /specialist services, to reduce or prevent concerns from growing or becoming entrenched.

The "Gloucestershire Family Information Service" provides easy to access information to help families meet their needs and it is also used by professionals when supporting families.

www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk

Paul McLain, Cabinet lead for Children & Young People and Strategic Commissioning said

the Early Help Offer is about working with partners to help children, young people and families deal with their issues as early as possible; providing information, advice and services at the right time; supporting them to resolve their concerns as needs emerge.

(See also Safeguarding Policy)