

Little Rainbow Nursery

Inclusion and Equality

Inclusion is a process of identifying, understanding, and breaking down barriers to participation and belonging. Inclusive early years practice is about anticipating, paying attention, responding to, and reflecting on the needs and interests of all children. A commitment to inclusion should permeate all aspects of the design of educational programs and the structuring of environments, as well as shaping every interaction with children, parents, and other professionals (Birth to 5 Matters, 2021).

Statement of Aim

Little Rainbow Nursery takes great care to treat everyone as a person, with equal rights and responsibilities to any other individual, whether they are an adult or a child. The nursery is committed to providing equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all staff, children, and families according to their individual needs. Discrimination on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation has no place within our nursery.

A commitment to implementing our inclusion and equality policy is part of each employee's job description. Should anyone believe that this policy is not being upheld, it is their duty to report the matter to the attention of the nursery manager at the earliest opportunity.

Appropriate steps will then be taken to investigate the matter and if such concerns are well founded, the nursery's disciplinary policy will be followed.

The legal framework for this policy is based on:

- Special Education Needs and Disabilities Code of Practice 2015
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Equality Act 2010
- Childcare Act 2006
- Children Act 2004

- Care Standards Act 2002
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001.

Little Rainbow Nursery and staff are committed to:

- Recruiting, selecting, training, and promoting individuals based on occupational skills requirements. In this respect, the nursery will ensure that no job applicant or employee will receive less favorable treatment because of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.
- Creating a working environment free of bullying, harassment, victimization, and unlawful discrimination, promoting dignity and respect for all, and where individual differences and the contributions of all staff are recognized and valued
- Providing a childcare place, wherever possible, for children who may have special needs and/or disabilities or are deemed disadvantaged according to their individual circumstances, and the nursery's ability to provide the necessary standard of care
- Striving to promote equal access to services and projects by taking practical steps, (wherever possible and reasonable) such as ensuring access to people with additional needs and by producing materials in relevant languages and media for all children and their families
- Providing a secure environment in which all our families are listened to, children can flourish, and all contributions are valued
- Including and valuing the contribution of all families to our understanding of equality, inclusion, and diversity
- Providing positive non-stereotypical information
- Continually improving our knowledge and understanding of issues of equality, inclusion and diversity and training all staff about their rights and responsibilities under the inclusion and equality policy.
- Regularly reviewing, monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of inclusive practices to ensure they promote and value diversity and difference and that the policy is effective and practices are non-discriminatory
- Making inclusion a thread, which runs through the entirety of the nursery, for example, by encouraging positive role models using toys, imaginary play and activities, promoting non-stereotypical images and language and challenging all discriminatory behavior (see dealing with discriminatory behavior policy).
- All staff are expected to uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behavior, within and outside the nursery. This includes not undermining fundamental British values.

Admissions/service provision

The nursery is accessible to all children and families in the local community and further afield through a comprehensive and inclusive admissions policy.

Little Rainbow Nursery will strive to ensure that all services and projects are accessible and relevant to all groups and individuals in the community within targeted age groups.

Recruitment

Recruitment, promotion, and other selection exercises such as redundancy selection will be conducted on the basis of merit, against objective criteria that avoids discrimination. Shortlisting will be done by more than one person, where possible.

All members of the selection group are committed to the inclusive practice set out in this policy and will have received appropriate training in this regard.

Application forms are sent out along with a copy of the equal opportunities monitoring form. Application forms do not include questions that potentially discriminate against the grounds specified in the statement of intent.

At interview, no questions will be posed which potentially discriminate against the grounds specified in the statement of intent. All candidates will be asked the same questions, and members of the selection group will not introduce nor use any personal knowledge of candidates acquired outside the selection process. Candidates will be given the opportunity to receive feedback on the reasons why they were not successful.

We may ask questions (Under the Equality Act 2010) prior to offering someone employment in the following circumstances:

- To establish whether the applicant will be able to comply with a requirement to undergo an assessment (i.e. an interview or selection test)
- To establish whether the applicant will be able to carry out a function that is intrinsic to the work concerned
- To monitor diversity in the range of people applying for work
- To take positive action towards a particular group – for example offering a guaranteed interview scheme

- You require someone with a particular disability because of an occupational requirement for the job.

The national College for Teaching and Leadership provides further guidance specific to working with children, which we follow:

Providers have a responsibility to ensure that practitioners have the health and physical capacity to teach and will not put children and young people at risk of harm. The activities that a practitioner must be able to perform are set out in the Education (Health Standards England) Regulations 2003. Providers are responsible for ensuring that only practitioners who have the capacity to teach remain on the staff team.

People with disabilities or chronic illnesses may have the capacity to teach, just as those without disabilities or medical conditions may be unsuitable to teach. Further information on training to teach with a disability is available from the DfE website.

Successful applicants offered a position may be asked to complete a fitness questionnaire prior to commencing the programme. Providers should not ask all-encompassing health questions but should ensure that they only ask targeted and relevant health-related questions, which are necessary to ensure that a person is able to teach.

Staff

It is our policy of Little Rainbow Nursery not to discriminate in the treatment of individuals. All staff are expected to co-operate with the implementation, monitoring and improvement of this and other policies. They are expected to challenge language, actions, behaviors and attitudes which are oppressive or discriminatory on the grounds as specified in this policy and recognise and celebrate other cultures and traditions. All staff are expected to participate in equality and inclusion training.

Training

The nursery recognises the importance of training as a key factor in the implementation of an effective inclusion and equality policy. The nursery will strive towards the provision of inclusion, equality and diversity training for all staff on a

annual basis. The nursery strives towards the provision of inclusion, equality, and diversity training for all staff.

Early Years Foundation Stage

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage and ensure that all learning opportunities offered in the nursery encourage children to develop positive attitudes to people who are different from them. Our curriculum encourages children to empathize with others and to begin to develop the skills of critical thinking.

We do this by:

- Identifying a key person to each child who will ensure that each child's care is tailored to meet their individual needs and continuously observe, assess, and plan for their learning and development
- Listening to children (verbally and non-verbally) and making children feel included, valued, and good about themselves
- Ensuring that we know what each child knows and "can do" and have equal access to tailored early learning and play opportunities
- Reflecting the widest possible range of communities in the choice of resources
- Avoiding stereotypical or derogatory images in the selection of materials
- Acknowledging and celebrating a wide range of religions, beliefs, and festivals
- Creating an environment of mutual respect
- Supporting children to talk about their feelings and those of others, manage emotions and develop empathy
- Helping children to understand that discriminatory behavior and remarks are unacceptable
- Knowing children well, being able to meet their needs and know when they require further support
- Ensuring that all early learning opportunities offered are inclusive of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and children from disadvantaged backgrounds
- Ensuring that children whose first language is not English have full access to our early learning opportunities and are supported in their learning
- Working in partnership with all families to ensure they understand the policy and challenge any discriminatory comments made
- Ensuring the medical, cultural, and dietary needs of all children are met and help
- children to learn about a range of food and cultural approaches to mealtimes and to respect the differences among them.

Parent information and meetings

Information about the nursery, its activities, experiences, resources are shared with parents as well as information about their child's development. This is given in a variety of ways according to individual needs (written, verbal and translated), to ensure that all parents can access the information they need.

Wherever possible, meetings are arranged to give all families opportunities to attend and share information about their child.

We also consult with parents regularly about the running of the nursery and ask them to contribute their ideas.

Food

- We work in partnership with parents to ensure that the medical, cultural and dietary needs of children are met
- We will help children to learn about a range of food and cultural approaches to mealtimes and to respect the differences among them.

Meetings

- Meetings will be arranged to ensure that all families who wish to, may be consulted in the running of the nursery
- Information about meetings and activities will be communicated in a variety of ways according to individual needs (written, verbal and translated), to ensure that all parents have information about access.

This policy was adopted: April 2022

Date for review: April 2023