

# Wanborough Playgroup

Registered Charity Number 1026150



## General Welfare Requirement: Safeguarding and Promoting Children's Welfare

Playgroup must take necessary steps to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

## Equality, inclusion and valuing diversity

### Policy Statement

Wanborough Playgroup will ensure that its service is fully inclusive in meeting the needs of all children, particularly those that arise from their ethnic heritage, social and economic background, gender, ability or disability.

Wanborough Playgroup is committed to anti-discriminatory practice to promote equality of opportunity and valuing diversity for all children and families. We aim to:

- provide a secure and accessible environment in which all our children can flourish and in which all contributions are considered and valued
- include and value the contribution of all families to our understanding of equality and diversity
- provide positive non-stereotyping information about gender roles, diverse ethnic and cultural groups and disabled people
- improve our knowledge and understanding of issues of anti-discriminatory practice, promoting equality and valuing diversity
- make inclusion a thread that runs through all of the activities of the setting

### EYFS key themes and commitments

A Unique Child	Positive Relationships	Enabling Environments	Learning and Development
1.2 Inclusive practice 1.3 Keeping Safe	2.1 Respecting each other 2.2 Parents as partners 2.3 Supporting learning 2.4 Key persons	3.2 Supporting every child 3.4 The wider context	4.4 Areas of learning and development

## **Procedures**

In order to meet our legal duties, promote equality and inclusion at Wanborough Playgroup and value diversity we follow these procedures:

### *Admissions*

- Playgroup is open to all members of the community.
- We advertise our service widely.
- We provide information in clear, concise language, whether in spoken or written form.
- We base our admissions policy on a fair system. Places are offered in accordance to our Admission Policy irrespective of gender.
- We ensure that all parents are made aware of our equality and diversity policy and all other relevant policies.
- We do not discriminate against a child or their family, or prevent entry to Wanborough Playgroup, on the basis of colour, ethnicity, religion or social background, such as being a member of a Travelling community or an asylum seeker.
- We do not discriminate against a disabled child or refuse a child entry to Wanborough Playgroup for reasons relating to disability.
- Our action plan ensures that people with disabilities can participate successfully in the services offered by Wanborough Playgroup and in the curriculum offered.
- We take action against any discriminatory behaviour by staff or parents. Displaying of openly discriminatory and possibly offensive materials, name calling, or threatening behaviour are unacceptable on or around the premises and will be dealt with in the strongest manner.

### *Employment*

- Posts are advertised and all applicants are judged against explicit and fair criteria.
- Applicants are welcome from all backgrounds and posts are open to all.
- We may use exemption clauses in relevant legislation to enable the service to best meet the needs of the community.
- The applicant who best meets the criteria is offered the post, subject to references and checks by the Criminal Records Bureau. This ensures fairness in the selection process.
- All job descriptions include a commitment to valuing equality and recognising and respecting diversity as part of their specifications.
- We monitor our application process to ensure that it is fair and accessible.

### *Training*

- We seek out training opportunities for staff and volunteers to enable them to develop anti-discriminatory and inclusive practices, which enable all children to flourish.
- We ensure that staff are confident and fully trained in administering relevant medicines and performing invasive care procedures when these are required.
- We review our practices to ensure that we are fully implementing our policy for promoting equality, valuing diversity and inclusion.

### *Curriculum and environment*

The curriculum offered by Playgroup encourages children to develop positive attitudes about themselves as well as to people who are different from themselves. It encourages children to empathise with others and to begin to develop the skills of critical thinking.

The environment should be accessible for all visitors and service users. If access to Playgroup is found to treat disabled children or adults less favourably then reasonable adjustments will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled children and adults.

We do this by:

- making children feel valued and good about themselves;
- making sure that children have equality of access to learning;
- making adjustments to the environment and resources to accommodate a wide range of learning, physical and sensory impairments;
- making appropriate provision within the curriculum to ensure each child receives the widest possible opportunity to develop their skills and abilities; e.g. recognising the different learning styles of girls and boys;
- positively reflecting the widest possible range of communities in the choice of resources;
- avoiding stereotypes or derogatory images in the selection of books or other visual materials;
- celebrating a wide range of festivals;
- creating an environment of mutual respect and tolerance;
- differentiating the curriculum to meet children's special educational needs;
- helping children to understand that discriminatory behaviour and remarks are hurtful and unacceptable;
- ensuring that the curriculum offered is inclusive of children with special educational needs and children with disabilities;
- ensuring that children learning English as an additional language have full access to the curriculum and are supported in their learning; and
- ensuring that children speaking languages other than English are supported in the maintenance and development of their home languages by seeking out resources and advice from outside agencies.

### *Valuing diversity in families*

- We welcome the diversity of family lifestyles and work with all families.
- We encourage children to contribute stories of their everyday life to Wanborough Playgroup.
- We encourage parents/carers to take part in the life of Playgroup and to contribute fully.
- For families who speak languages in addition to English, we will develop means to ensure their full inclusion.
- We offer a flexible payment system for families of differing means and offer information regarding sources of financial support.

### *Food*

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

### *Meetings*

- Meetings are arranged to ensure that all families who wish to may be involved in the running of Playgroup.
- Information about meetings is communicated in a variety of ways – written, verbal and in translation if required – to ensure that all parents have information about and access to the meetings.

### *Monitoring and reviewing*

- To ensure our policies and procedures remain effective we will monitor and review them annually to ensure our strategies meet the overall aims to promote equality, inclusion and valuing diversity.
- We provide a complaints procedure and a complaints summary record for our parents to see.

### **Legal framework**

The legal framework for this policy is:

- The Equality Act 2006
- Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995, 2005
- Race Relations Act 1976
- Race Relations Amendment Act 2000
- Sex Discrimination Act 1976, 1986
- Children Act 1989, 2004
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001

This policy was adopted at a meeting of	Wanborough Playgroup
Held on	10 <sup>th</sup> March 2008
Date reviewed	30 <sup>th</sup> April 2009
Date to be reviewed	March 2010
Signed on behalf of the management committee	
Name of signatory	Sarah Kennedy
Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner)	Chairperson
Reviewed on:	26 <sup>th</sup> March 2012
Name of Signatory:	Kath Liston
Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner)	Chairperson
Signed on behalf of the management committee	
Next Review Date:	March 2013