

Safeguarding children

1.1 Children's rights and entitlements

Policy statement for St Joseph's Pre-school

- We promote children's right to be *strong, resilient and listened to* by creating an environment in our setting that encourages children to develop a positive self image, which includes their heritage arising from their colour and ethnicity, their languages spoken at home, their religious beliefs, cultural traditions and home background.
- We promote children's right to be *strong, resilient and listened to* by encouraging children to develop a sense of autonomy and independence.
- We promote children's right to be *strong, resilient and listened to* by enabling children to have the self-confidence and the vocabulary to resist inappropriate approaches.
- We help children to establish and sustain satisfying relationships within their families, with peers, and with other adults.
- We work with parents to build their understanding of, and commitment to, the principles of safeguarding all our children.

Background

Children and young people in the UK have their rights by two main documents The Human Rights Act 1998 and the [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) (CRC). The CRC is for everybody below the age of 18 and lists over 40 rights belonging to children and young people, for example:

- the right to express their views and have them taken into account in matters that affect them (Article 12);
- the right to be free from all forms of violence (Article 19);
- access to education (Article 28);
- the right to play, rest and leisure (Article 31).

In 1991 the UK government promised it would do its best to make sure the CRC rights are respected for children and young people. The CRC is part of international law, but is not yet law in the UK. However, The Human Rights Act does contain lots of the rights in the CRC like the right to life, the right to education, and the right to family life but is not as detailed as the CRC itself.

Every 5 years the UK Government has to report to a United Nations Committee of children's rights experts who check whether the rights in the CRC are being respected and protected here in the UK.

What it means to promote children's rights and entitlements to be '*strong, resilient and listened to*'.

To be **strong** means to be:

- **secure** in their foremost attachment relationships where they are loved and cared for, by at least one person who is able to offer consistent, positive and unconditional regard and who can be relied on;
- **safe and valued** as individuals in their families and in relationships beyond the family, such as day care or school;

- **self assured** and form a positive sense of themselves – including all aspects of their identity and heritage;
- **included equally and belong** in early years settings and in community life;
- **confident in abilities** and **proud** of their achievements;
- **progressing optimally** in all aspects of their development and learning;
- **to be part of a peer group** in which to learn to negotiate, develop social skills and identity as global citizens, respecting the rights of others in a diverse world; and
- **to participate and be able to represent themselves** in aspects of service delivery that affects them as well as aspects of key decisions that affect their lives.

To be **resilient** means to:

- **be sure** of their self worth and dignity;
- be able to be **assertive** and state their needs effectively;
- be able to **overcome** difficulties and problems;
- **be positive** in their outlook on life;
- be able to **cope** with challenge and change;
- have a **sense of justice** towards self and others;
- to develop a **sense of responsibility** towards self and others; and
- to be able to **represent** themselves and others in key decision making processes.

To be **listened to** means:

- adults who are close to children recognise their need and **right to express and communicate** their thoughts, feelings and ideas;
- adults who are close to children are able to **tune in** to their verbal, sign and body language in order to understand and interpret what is being expressed and communicated;
- adults who are close to children are able to **respond appropriately and, when required, act upon their understanding** of what children express and communicate ; and
- adults **respect children's rights** and **facilitate children's participation and representation** in imaginative and child centred ways in all aspects of core services.

Associated policies and procedures

- 1.3 Children in care

Version Number	Author	Purpose of change	Date
1.0	K Coupe	Reviewed and page numbered	Sept 2014
2.0	Committee	Reviewed	Oct 2016
3.0	K Coupe	Reviewed, version controlled	01/05/2019 Cttee Mtg
4.0	K Coupe	Reviewed and updated – reference to the Human Rights Act and the Convention on the Rights of Children (including links)	20/11/2021 Cttee Mbr (T Clapp)
5.0	K Coupe	Inclusion of “Associated policies and procedures” section as per EY GCC’s safeguarding audit (section 175/157) 2022	03/05/2022 Cttee Mbr (M Montgomery)