



Promoting British Values Policy

Statement of intent

At Playhouse Pre-School, we recognise the importance of promoting the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

We understand that, in an early years setting, these values are promoted through children's everyday experiences, relationships, play and interactions with adults and other children. We provide children with opportunities to develop an understanding of fairness, respect, responsibility, choice and the importance of listening to others.

Our approach is age-appropriate and reflects the individual development of each child, including babies and toddlers from 9 months of age. We do not expect babies and young children to understand abstract concepts such as democracy or the rule of law. Instead, we help them develop the foundations for these values through responsive relationships, consistent boundaries, opportunities to make choices, sharing and turn-taking, and positive interactions with others.

Our approach supports the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and our duties under the Equality Act 2010. We promote an inclusive environment where every child and family is valued and respected.

Procedures

Democracy

At Playhouse Pre-School, we encourage children to develop an understanding that their voice and opinions matter and that other people's views should also be listened to and respected.

Children are given appropriate opportunities to:

- make choices about their play and activities;
- express their preferences, interests and feelings;
- contribute ideas for activities, themes and role play;
- make simple decisions appropriate to their age and stage of development;
- take part in group discussions and activities;
- listen to the ideas of others;
- learn that sometimes the group may make a decision that is different from their own preference;
- develop confidence in expressing themselves.

Examples may include children helping to choose activities, themes within the role-play area, stories, songs or other experiences.

We listen to parents' and carers' views through informal communication, discussions, questionnaires and other opportunities to provide feedback. Where appropriate, feedback is considered and acted upon.

For babies and younger children, democracy is promoted through responsive interactions, giving children appropriate choices and recognising their individual communication, preferences and responses.

Rule of law

Children are supported to understand that agreed rules and boundaries help to keep everyone safe and allow everyone to enjoy their time at Playhouse Pre-School.

We:

- establish clear and consistent boundaries appropriate to children's age and stage of development;
- explain rules in simple, positive language;
- help children understand why boundaries are important;
- support children to understand the difference between acceptable and unacceptable behaviour;
- help children recognise that their actions can affect other people;
- provide consistent responses to behaviour;
- encourage children to take responsibility for their actions in an age-appropriate way;
- model respect for rules and boundaries ourselves.

Rules are communicated positively and are not used to shame or frighten children.

For babies and younger children, boundaries are introduced through consistent routines, gentle guidance, repetition and responsive support. At this age, children are developing an understanding of cause and effect and are not expected to understand rules in the same way as older children.

Individual liberty

We support children to develop confidence, independence and an understanding that they have choices while also learning that their choices must respect the safety and rights of others.

Children are encouraged to:

- make age-appropriate choices;
- choose between activities and resources;
- develop independence in everyday routines;
- express their likes, dislikes and preferences;
- communicate their feelings and needs;
- develop confidence in trying new experiences;
- develop their own interests;
- understand that they are individuals and that other people may have different preferences and opinions.

Children are provided with appropriate boundaries so that they can make choices safely.

For babies and toddlers, this includes responding to their individual cues and communication, allowing them to explore safely and providing simple choices appropriate to their developmental stage.

Children are never expected to participate in an activity simply because another child has chosen to do so. Staff support children to express their preferences respectfully while ensuring that safeguarding, health and safety requirements are followed.

Mutual respect

Respect is central to the ethos of Playhouse Pre-School.

We teach children, through our own example and through everyday experiences, that everyone should be treated with kindness and respect.

Children are supported to:

- listen to others;
- share and take turns;
- respect other people's personal space and belongings;
- recognise and respond appropriately to other people's feelings;
- work and play cooperatively;
- appreciate that people may have different interests, abilities, backgrounds, cultures and beliefs;
- treat others fairly and kindly.

Staff act as positive role models and demonstrate respectful communication and behaviour at all times.

We expect adults within the setting, including staff, volunteers, students, parents, carers and visitors, to model respectful behaviour towards children and one another.

Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

Playhouse Pre-School is an inclusive setting where children and families from different backgrounds, cultures, faiths and beliefs are welcomed and respected.

We provide children with opportunities to learn about the wider world and develop an appreciation that families and communities may have different traditions, cultures, beliefs and ways of life.

This may include:

- sharing stories and books reflecting different cultures and family backgrounds;
- learning about celebrations and festivals;
- exploring music, art, food and traditions from different cultures;
- talking about similarities and differences between people;
- using resources that represent a diverse range of people and families;
- encouraging children to ask questions and express their ideas;
- helping children understand that people may believe or practise different things.

We will ensure that celebrations and learning experiences are presented respectfully and appropriately for young children.

We do not promote one faith or belief system as being superior to another.

We also recognise that some families may have no religious faith. This is respected equally.

Equality and inclusion

Promoting British values is closely linked to our commitment to equality, inclusion and respect for every child and family.

We do not tolerate discrimination, bullying, prejudice or unfair treatment.

Children are supported to understand that people may be different in many ways, including in relation to:

- age;
- disability;
- gender reassignment;
- race;
- religion or belief;
- sex;
- sexual orientation;
- family circumstances;
- culture and background.

Staff will challenge discriminatory or prejudicial language and behaviour in an age-appropriate and supportive way.

Our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy provides further information about how Playhouse Pre-School promotes equality and responds to discrimination.

Staff as role models

Children learn values through observing the adults around them.

All staff are expected to:

- treat children, parents, carers and colleagues with respect;
- listen to children's views and respond appropriately;
- demonstrate fairness and kindness;
- use positive and respectful language;
- model appropriate ways of resolving disagreements;
- respect differences between individuals and families;
- follow the setting's policies and procedures;
- challenge discriminatory behaviour appropriately;
- promote an inclusive environment.

Staff should ensure that their own personal beliefs do not lead to children or families being treated unfairly or differently.

Children's rights and responsibilities

We recognise that children have rights and that, as they develop, they can begin to understand responsibilities towards themselves and others.

Children are supported to understand that everyone has the right to:

- feel safe;
- be treated with kindness and respect;
- have their feelings listened to;
- receive support with their learning and development;
- have their belongings treated with respect;
- play and learn in a safe environment.

Children are also supported to develop an age-appropriate understanding that they have responsibilities, including:

- helping to keep themselves and others safe;
- treating others kindly;
- caring for resources and the environment;
- listening to others;
- following reasonable boundaries.

These concepts are introduced through everyday experiences rather than formal teaching.

Prevent and safeguarding

Promoting British values forms part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities.

Playhouse Pre-School supports children to develop positive relationships, respect for others and an understanding that everyone should be treated fairly.

Staff remain alert to safeguarding concerns and follow the Safeguarding Children Policy and relevant local safeguarding procedures where concerns arise.

The promotion of British values will always be age-appropriate and proportionate to the early years context.

Partnership with parents and carers

We recognise parents and carers as important partners in supporting children's social and emotional development.

We encourage parents and carers to share information about their family's culture, traditions, languages and beliefs where they wish to do so.

We respect families' individual circumstances and aim to ensure that all children feel that their family and identity are valued within the setting.

Where there are differences of opinion between home and the setting, staff will communicate respectfully and seek to understand the family's perspective while continuing to meet our legal, safeguarding and EYFS responsibilities.

This policy was agreed by the staff of Playhouse Pre-School Broadwater.

Adopted on 6th November 2015 and will be reviewed annually.

Reviewed on 29th September 2026 by Z. Munford