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Charity ref: 1147389
Ofsted: EY457353

British Values Policy

The Department for Education has reinforced the need "to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all Early Years settings (Early Years Handbook August 2015) to promote 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 are an inclusive setting and our ethos and curriculum enables children to be independent learners, to make choices and to build strong relationships with their peers and all adults. Our setting believes that children flourish best when their personal, social and emotional needs are met and where there are clear and developmentally appropriate expectations of their behaviour.

The following values underpin this ethos and help to ensure a safe, comfortable and relaxed environment in which children can thrive, learn and be cared for with warmth, understanding and sensitivity. We would challenge children, staff or parents who expressed opinions contrary to those detailed below. We should state that where such opinions gave cause for concern for the safety and wellbeing of a child/children, families, staff or the wider community, appropriate action including referral to the relevant authorities would be taken.

Democracy

We respect, listen to and act on children's and parents' voices. Children are involved in making class rules and they are expected to contribute and cooperate with them, taking into account the views of others.

The rule of law

We consistently reinforce our high expectations of children. Children are taught the value and reasons behind our expectations (rules); that they are there to protect us, that everyone has a responsibility and that there are consequences when rules are broken.

Individual liberty

At The Children's Ark, children are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As an early years provider we educate and provide boundaries for young children to make choices and to manage risks. This is achieved through our provision of a safe environment and empowering teaching.

Children are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are given opportunities to resolve conflicts effectively.

Mutual respect

At the Children's Ark we value all of our children, their families and our staff. We celebrate a rich cultural and religious diversity and promote mutual respect. Children are modelled respect through caring, sharing and listening to others. Adults help children to understand how their actions and words affect others. All children, including those with special educational needs and disabilities are valued for their individuality and supported to achieve their best.

Children are taught that life is not the same for everyone and we support charities such as 'Red Nose Day', 'Children in Need' and 'Shoe-Box Appeal' and the children learn to appreciate how different life can be for others.

Tolerance of all faiths and beliefs

We actively promote tolerance of the differences amongst children, parents and staff and promote equality amongst diversity. This includes those of all faiths, beliefs, disabilities, race, gender and cultures.

We aim to enhance children's understanding of all faiths and cultural beliefs by participating in a range of celebrations throughout the year. Children enjoy the opportunity to dress-up in clothes and try different foods from other cultures and we encourage parents/carers to participate and support our multi-cultural events. Annually, we celebrate Diwali, Chinese New Year, Christmas and St Piran's day along with community events such as Lafrowda parade. We ensure that posters, displays and messages of welcome reflect the range of languages and cultures that we have in our setting.

We monitor all forms of bullying and harassment and take action where appropriate (see Behaviour Policy). We actively promote courtesy and good manners towards all.

At the Children's Ark, embedded in everything we do, is our determination to develop skills of empathy and tolerance to make everyone at our setting feel valued and respected.

This policy was adopted at a staff meeting of The Children's Ark:

Signed..... Print Name.....

Dated.....

And at The Children's Ark committee meeting:

Signed by chairperson..... Print Name.....

Dated.....

Date of review.....