



Consulting with Children Policy

Polesden Lacey Playschool and all members of staff are committed to the principle of involving and consulting children whenever decisions are made within the Playschool that affect them.

The Playschool believes that actively promoting the participation of children in decision-making processes is beneficial to children, staff and the Playschool as a whole.

The Playschool's commitment to involving and consulting children stems from the 'listening to children' provisions set out in Articles 12 and 13 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. These state that:

- A child's opinion should be taken into account in anything that affects them
- Children should have information disseminated in a way that enables them to make choices and decisions

For children, involvement and consultation helps them to develop new skills such as negotiating, sharing and understanding the views of others. It helps them to understand how decisions are made and recognises that their opinions are important.

For both staff and the Playschool, there are multiple benefits of this approach, such as improved behaviour, a relationship with children based on partnership, a more cohesive environment and activities and decisions that children feel a sense of ownership over.

All children will be listened to and actively consulted with. This will be in a number of ways, including:

- Listening to what they say in speech and other forms of communication
- Observing body language and behaviour
- Drama and role-play
- Through play and creative expression and the use of visual aids / photographs / symbols
- Regular group based discussions and question and answer sessions
- Questionnaires and other regular feedback on activities
- Notice boards that carry information about activities at the Playschool
- Regular children's meetings, between children and staff, discussing the Playschool's activities and any other relevant topics
- Discussion with or information from parents if appropriate for the child

Age, maturity and the type of decision being made will determine the extent and nature of children's involvement. However, the emphasis should always be strongly in favour of involving children.



Consultation and involvement will be regularly monitored and acted upon so that the children are able to see that their input has led to visible outcomes. The Playschool and its staff will also be clear about what decisions children will be involved in and attempt to offer clear explanations if and when consultation and involvement is deemed inappropriate.

Reviews

This policy is held on the Playschool's Website (www.polesdenlaceyplayschool.co.uk) and in the policy folder in the cloak room. This policy will be reviewed periodically, as and when required.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of the Playschool Committee held on 6th June 2011 and signed by Hayley Hamilton on behalf of the Playschool.

This policy was reviewed and changes agreed at a committee meeting held on:

Date	Signed on behalf of the Playschool
14 th January 2013	Nichola Hooper, Chair of the Committee
13 th June 2016	Natasha Matthews, Chair of the Committee
11 th June 2018	Natasha Matthews, Chair of the Committee
23 rd January 2020	Natasha Matthews, Chair of the Committee
27 th April 2022	Ellie Pragnell, Chair of the Committee