



Inclusion: Equality and diversity policy

Statement of intent

SCOOSC is committed to providing equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children and families.

Aim

We aim to:

- provide a secure environment in which all our children can flourish and in which all contributions are valued;
- include and value the contribution of all families to our understanding of equality and diversity;
- provide positive non-stereotyping information about different ethnic groups and people with disabilities;
- improve our knowledge and understanding of issues of equality and diversity;
- make inclusion a thread which runs through all of the activities of SCOOSC.

The legal framework for this policy is:

- Race Relations Act 1976;
- Race Relations Amendment Act 2000;
- Sex Discrimination Act 1986;
- Children Act 1989; and
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001.
- Disability Discrimination Act 1995

Methods

Named Person

- We have a named person who has overall responsibility for issues concerning equal opportunities, inclusion and diversity.
- We require the named person to:
 - keep herself up-to-date with legislation and research and thinking on handling issues regarding equality and inclusion;
 - access relevant sources of expertise on equality and inclusion; and
 - check that all staff have relevant in-service training on equality and inclusion. We keep a record of staff attendance at this training.

Admissions

SCOOSC is open to all members of the school community and to the wider community during the holidays.

- We advertise our service widely.
- We reflect the diversity of members of our society in our publicity and promotional materials.
- We provide information in clear, concise language, whether in spoken or written form.
- We base our admissions policy on a fair system.
- We do not discriminate against a child with a disability or refuse a child entry to SCOOSC because of any disability.
- We challenge inappropriate attitudes and practices.



- We ensure that all parents are made aware of our equal opportunities policy.
- Posts are advertised and all applicants are judged against explicit and fair criteria.
- 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.
- 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 practices which enable all children to flourish.
- We review our practices to ensure that we are fully implementing our policy for equality and diversity.

Curriculum

The play experiences offered at SCOOSC encourage children to develop positive attitudes to people who are different from themselves. It encourages children to empathise with others and to begin to develop the skills of critical thinking.

We do this by:

- making children feel valued and good about themselves;
- ensuring that children have equality of access to learning;
- reflecting the widest possible range of communities in the choice of resources;
- avoiding stereotypes or derogatory images in the selection of materials;
- celebrating a wide range of festivals and cultures;
- creating an environment of mutual respect and tolerance;
- helping children to understand that discriminatory behaviour and remarks are unacceptable;
- ensuring that the curriculum offered is inclusive of children with special educational needs and children with disabilities; and
- ensuring that children whose first language is not English have full access to the curriculum and are supported in their learning.

Valuing Diversity in Families

- We welcome the diversity of family life and work with all families.
- We encourage children to contribute stories of their everyday life into the nursery.
- We encourage parents/carers to take part in the life of the nursery and to contribute fully.
- For families who have a first language other than English, we value the contribution their culture and language offer.

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, cultural approaches to mealtimes and eating and to respect the differences among them.

Elissa Alcazar.

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