



EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY

The Pre-school Learning Alliance is committed to helping pre-schools provide equality of opportunity for all children and families. As a member of the Alliance, Ide Hill works in accordance with all relevant legislation, including:

- SEND Code of Practice 2014
- Disabled Persons Acts 2004
- Equality Act 2012
- Race Relations Act 1976
- Sex Discrimination Act 1986
- Children Act 1989/2004

We believe that the group's activities should be open to all children and families, and to all adults committed to their welfare. We aim to ensure that all who wish to work in, or volunteer to help with, our pre-school have an equal chance to do so. The mission statement of our pre-school talks of valuing the individuality of all of our children. We are committed to giving all of our children every opportunity to achieve the highest of standards. We do this by taking account of children's varied life experiences and needs. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum and have high expectations for all children. The achievements, attitudes and well-being of all our children matter. This policy helps to ensure that this pre-school promotes the individuality of all our children, irrespective of ethnicity, attainment, age, disability, gender or background.

At Ide Hill we follow Equality Act 2010 where two core duties apply to our early years setting:

- Not to treat a child or an adult with a disability "less favourably"
- To make "reasonable adjustments" for children and adults with a disability

At Ide Hill we believe it is important that our children are taught fundamental British values in an age appropriate way, through the promotion of spiritual, moral, social and cultural education.

We identify British Values within the setting to include; democracy; a voice for all to communicate, our rules, encouraging all children to manage their behaviour and take responsibility for their actions. Individual liberty for all to have rights and make choices. Cultural Understanding is embedded in daily practice and by the provision of involvement in events of multi-faith celebration to broaden experience of others faith and beliefs.

We recognise that practitioners are duty bound to identify and protect children from vocal or active opposition to these values.

Aims and objectives

Ide Hill Pre-school aims to be an inclusive pre-school. We actively seek to remove the barriers to learning and participation that can hinder or exclude individual children, or groups of children. This means that equality of opportunity must be a reality for our children. We make this a reality through the attention we pay to the different groups of children within our pre-school:

- girls and boys;
- minority ethnic and faith groups;
- children who need support to learn English as an Additional Language;
- children with Special Educational Needs;
- gifted and talented children;
- children who are at risk of disaffection or exclusion;
- travellers and asylum seekers.
- Children looked after (CLA)



Admissions

Our setting is open to all members of the community.

- We advertise our service widely.
- We reflect the diversity of our society in our publicity and promotional materials.
- We provide information in clear, concise language, whether in spoken or written form.
- We provide information in as many languages as possible.
- We base our Admissions Policy on a fair system.
- We ensure that all parents are made aware of our Valuing Diversity and Promoting Equality Policy.
- We do not discriminate against a child or their family, or prevent entry to our setting, on the basis of a protected characteristic as defined by the Equalities Act (2010). These are:
 - disability;
 - race;
 - gender reassignment;
 - religion or belief;
 - sex;
 - sexual orientation;
 - age;
 - pregnancy and maternity; and
 - marriage and civil partnership.
- We do not discriminate against a child with a disability or refuse a child entry to our setting for reasons relating to disability.
- We ensure, wherever possible, that we have a balanced intake of boys and girls in the setting.
- We develop an action plan to ensure that people with impairments can participate successfully in the services offered by the setting and in the curriculum offered.
- We take action against any discriminatory behaviour by staff or parents whether by:
 - direct discrimination – someone is treated less favourably because of a protected characteristic e.g. preventing families of some racial groups from using the service;
 - indirect discrimination - someone is affected unfavourably by a general policy e.g. children must only speak English in the setting;
 - association – discriminating against someone who is associated with a person with a protected characteristic e.g. behaving unfavourably to someone who is married to a person from a different cultural background; or
 - perception – discrimination on the basis that it is thought someone has a protected characteristic e.g. making assumptions about someone's sexual orientation because of their mannerisms or how they speak.
- Displaying of openly discriminatory and possibly offensive materials, name calling, or threatening behaviour are unacceptable on, or around, the premises and will be dealt with in the strongest manner.

Employment

- Posts are advertised and all applicants are judged against explicit and fair criteria.
- Applicants are welcome from all backgrounds and posts are open to all.
- We may use the exemption clauses in relevant legislation to enable the service to best meet the needs of the community.
- The applicant who best meets the criteria is offered the post, subject to references and checks by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS's). This ensures fairness in the selection process.
- All job descriptions include a commitment to promoting equality and recognising and respecting diversity as part of their specifications.
- 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 anti-discriminatory and inclusive practices, which enable all children to flourish.
- We ensure that staff are confident and fully trained in administering relevant medicines and performing invasive care procedures when these are required.



- We review our practices to ensure that we are fully implementing our policy for Valuing Diversity and Promoting Equality.

Families

The pre-school recognises that many different types of family successfully love and care for children. The pre-school offers a flexible payment system for families with differing means.

Festivals

Our aim is to show respectful awareness of all the major events in the lives of the children and families in the pre-school, and in our society as a whole, and to welcome the diversity of backgrounds from which they come.

Curriculum

The curriculum offered in the setting encourages children to develop positive attitudes about themselves as well as to people who are different from themselves. It encourages children to empathise with others and to begin to develop the skills of critical thinking.

Our environment is as accessible as possible for all visitors and service users. If access to the settings is found to treat disabled children or adults less favourably, then we make reasonable adjustments to accommodate the needs of disabled children and adults. We do this by:

- making children feel valued and good about themselves and others;
- ensuring that children have equality of access to learning;
- undertaking an access audit to establish if the setting is accessible to all children;
- making adjustments to the environment and resources to accommodate a wide range of learning, physical and sensory impairments;
- making appropriate provision within the curriculum to ensure each child receives the widest possible opportunity to develop their skills and abilities, e.g. recognising the different learning styles of girls and boys;
- positively reflecting the widest possible range of communities in the choice of resources;
- avoiding stereotypes or derogatory images in the selection of books or other visual materials;
- celebrating a wide range of festivals;
- creating an environment of mutual respect and tolerance;
- differentiating the curriculum to meet children's special educational needs;
- helping children to understand that discriminatory behaviour and remarks are hurtful and unacceptable;
- ensuring that the curriculum offered is inclusive of children with special educational needs and children with disabilities;
- ensuring that children learning English as an additional language have full access to the curriculum and are supported in their learning; and
- ensuring that children speaking languages other than English are supported in the maintenance and development of their home languages.
- At Ide Hill Pre-school we achieve educational inclusion by continually reviewing what we do, through asking ourselves these key questions:
 - do all our children achieve their best?
 - are there differences in the achievement of different groups of children?
 - what are we doing for those children who we know are not achieving their best?
 - are our actions effective?
 - are we successful in promoting racial harmony and preparing children to live in a diverse society?



Teaching and learning style

At Ide Hill Pre-school we aim to give all our children the opportunity to succeed and reach the highest level of personal achievement. We analyse the attainment of different groups of children to ensure that all children are achieving as much as they can. We also make ongoing assessments of each child's progress. Staff use this information when planning. It enables staff to take into account the abilities of all the children in the setting.

When the attainment of a child falls significantly below the expected level, staff enable the child to succeed by planning work that is in line with that child's individual needs. Where the attainment of a child significantly exceeds the expected level of attainment, staff use appropriate resources and learning styles, and extend the breadth of work within the area or areas for which the child shows particular aptitude.

All staff are familiar with the relevant equal opportunities legislation covering race, gender and disability.

Staff ensure children:

- feel secure and know that their contributions are valued;
- appreciate and value the differences they see in others;
- take responsibility for their own actions;
- participate safely, in clothing that is appropriate to their religious beliefs;
- are taught in groupings that allow them all to experience success;
- use materials that reflect a range of social and cultural backgrounds, without stereotyping;
- have a common curriculum experience that allows for a range of different learning styles;
- have challenging targets that enable them to succeed;
- are encouraged to participate fully, regardless of disabilities or medical needs.

Children with disabilities

Some children in our pre-school may have disabilities and consequently may need additional resources. Ide Hill Pre-school is committed to providing an environment that allows these children full access to all areas of learning. All our entrances are wide enough for wheelchair access, and the designated points of entry for our pre-school also allow wheelchair access.

All staff modify learning as appropriate for these children. For example, they may give additional time to children with disabilities to complete certain activities. In their planning staff ensure that they give children with disabilities the opportunity to develop skills in practical aspects of the curriculum.

All staff ensure that the work for these children:

- takes account of their pace of learning and the equipment they use;
takes account of the effort and concentration needed in oral work, or when using, for example, visual aids;
- is adapted or offers alternative activities in those areas of learning where children are unable to manipulate tools or equipment, or use certain types of materials;
allows opportunities for them to take part in educational visits and other activities linked to their learning
- includes approaches that allow hearing-impaired children to learn about sound and music, and visually-impaired children to learn about light using visual resources and images.
- uses assessment techniques that reflect their individual needs and abilities.



Racism and inclusion

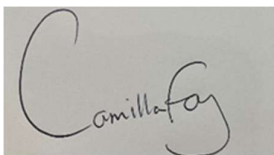
Ide Hill Pre-school are aware of the changes and follow the guidance in the Race Relations Amendment Act. The pre-school actively discourages bullying and name calling, the parents of both children would be informed immediately and we would discuss appropriate action. The action needed if there is inappropriate practice or discrimination. A member of staff would talk to the child and explain that the behaviour was unkind, we would take into the account the maturity of the child the parent of the child would be told of his/ her inappropriate behaviour and we would work together to redeem the situation.

Legal framework

- The Equality Act (2010)
- Children Act (1989) & (2004)
- SEND Code of Practice for the Early Years (Pre-school Learning Alliance 2014)

This policy was amended at a meeting of the pre-school held on (date)

29/09/2025



Signed on behalf of the pre- school

This policy will be reviewed in February 2026