

Subject: SEN and Inclusion

Policy Statement

At Smisby Day Nursery we believe that every child should have the best possible learning opportunities and we therefore promote inclusive practice. We recognise that some children may have particular needs or disabilities and we take specific action to support and encourage these children within a caring environment.

We work closely with parents and other agencies to monitor the child's progress carefully, and provide effective, additional support to meet the child's needs.

The DfE Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years (July 2014)

In order to comply with the Code of Practice staff working with children with special needs must focus on the following:

- Early identification and intervention
- Inclusive education
- Physical environment
- Partnership with parents
- Multi-agency collaboration

Early identification and intervention

- We make regular observations and assessments of all children's play and progress to enable early identification of children's special needs
- We monitor the progress of children with identified special needs carefully so that we can plan appropriate provision and support for these children
- We share all reports on children's progress with parents
- We use a graduated approach to identify and meet children's special needs. This is in line with national and local procedures and involves a systematic cycle of assessment, planning, action and review, recording clear targets and strategies for development and progress
- We use a range of strategies to involve the parents of the children in setting and reviewing targets. Children who are able to verbalise, and understand their needs, are encouraged to make choices and share their feelings and wishes with staff.

Inclusion

- We ensure that children with special needs are fully integrated into the daily groupings of the children and their routines
- In order to make appropriate and effective provision or adaptations, we collect information from parents to find out the child's:
 - visual/hearing needs
 - physical needs
 - emotional needs
 - learning needs

- self-help needs
- communication needs
- We ensure that children with special needs and disabilities are involved in play activities alongside the other children wherever possible
- We encourage and support children with special needs and disabilities to play confidently with other children and make a positive contribution
- We develop activities and experiences to raise the other children's awareness of positive images of disability and difference
- We make flexible arrangements for additional adult support to enhance social interaction, avoiding segregating children from playing with their peers
- We plan open-ended learning activities and experiences to help all the children to participate and learn, although we may need to differentiate for some learning activities and experiences and provide alternative formats or additional equipment and resources for particular children
- We use a range of strategies to engage the children in play, and provide learning activities to suit individual children's most effective style of learning

Physical environment

- We make reasonable adaptations and arrangements so that children with special needs and disabilities can join in all play areas of the Nursery, both indoors and outdoors
- We make every effort to organise appropriate space for the children's supported and independent movement
- We ensure that children with special needs have easy access to toilet and eating facilities
- We arrange respectful privacy for children with special needs at times of specific medical care or welfare

Partnership with parents

- We encourage parents to work closely with staff to support their children's individual needs
- We make time to focus on discussion of the children's strengths, as well as their needs
- We check that parents understand the graduated procedures of intervention
- We respect the different perspectives and needs of parents
- The Special Needs Co-ordinator and other staff ensure that there is consistent communication and consultation with parents
- We consult with parents about information that should be shared with others

Multi-agency collaboration

- The Special Needs Co-ordinator liaises with other supportive agencies to develop good working relationships
- We gather information on relevant contacts and services to share with parents
- We try to achieve a good relationship for information-sharing, collaboration and understanding with other professionals in order to take into account the complete needs of the child

Who this policy helps

The specific needs of every child who attends both the Nursery and the Out of School club are catered for within the entire scope of this policy

Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the Directors and managers to:

- Identify the necessary provision and staff arrangements to meet the individual needs of the children
- Appoint one member of staff to be Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator. This person will be responsible for supporting children with special needs within the setting and will be:
 - familiar with the DfE Code of Practice 2014
 - able to support other staff
 - capable of making links with parents and other agencies
- Ensure that the work of the setting has 'due regard' to the DfE Code of Practice 2014
- Ensure that no child with special needs is refused a place at the Nursery or Out of School Club
- Ensure that all staff have opportunities to undertake specialist training related to special needs, to improve and update their knowledge and understanding
- Make effective use of any available LEA funding and resources to meet the identified needs of children within the setting

It is the responsibility of everyone who works for the organisation to:

- Know who the appointed SENCO Officer is
- Make themselves aware of the details of this policy
- Be aware of 'special needs' and 'disabilities' in the context of Early Years provision and understand how statutory, national and local procedures apply in practice to children under 5
- Set high, but achievable, targets for children with special needs with other staff, parents and children
- Liaise with organisations and agencies who are concerned with children's special needs and disabilities