HALESFIELD DAY NURSERY | POLICIES & PROCEDURES

1.1 Children's Rights and Entitlements

Policy statement

At Halesfield Day Nursery, every child is valued as a unique individual with rights, views and feelings that deserve respect. We are committed to listening to children and involving them, in ways appropriate to their age, development and communication needs, in decisions that affect their experiences at nursery.

Our approach reflects the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, particularly Article 12 (the right to express views and have them considered) and Article 13 (freedom of expression), alongside the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) principles of positive relationships, inclusion and responsive practice.

Our commitments

Treat all children with dignity, fairness and respect, regardless of background, ability or individual needs.

Listen to children's views through speech, gestures, facial expressions, behaviour, play, creative expression and other communication methods.

Provide appropriate support for babies, children with SEND and children who use alternative or additional ways to communicate, including visual aids where helpful.

Offer meaningful everyday choices, for example about play opportunities, resources and how to participate in activities, within safe and appropriate boundaries.

Use observation and sensitive interaction to understand children's preferences, interests and concerns.

Explain decisions in ways children can understand and show them, wherever possible, how their contributions have influenced nursery life.

Work in partnership with parents and carers to understand each child's voice, routines, needs and preferences.

Take children's worries and disclosures seriously and follow safeguarding procedures whenever a concern arises.

Balancing choice and safety

Children's views are important and will be considered in decisions affecting them. However, adults retain responsibility for safeguarding, supervision, health and welfare. Where a child's preference cannot be followed, practitioners will respond sensitively and explain why, using language or communication methods appropriate to the child.

Monitoring and review

The nursery manager and staff team will reflect on how effectively children are listened to, including children who communicate non-verbally. Feedback from

children and families, observations and staff discussions will inform improvements to practice. This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner following relevant changes to guidance or nursery practice.

Related guidance and policies

EYFS statutory framework for group and school-based providers (effective 1 September 2026); United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Articles 12 and 13); nursery safeguarding, SEND and equality policies.