**2.1 Employment**

(Including suitability, contingency plans, training and development)

**Policy statement**

We meet the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage, ensuring that

our staff and volunteers are appropriately qualified, and we carry out checks for criminal and other records through the Disclosure and Barring Service in accordance with statutory requirements.

**Procedures**

*Vetting and staff selection*

* We work towards offering equality of opportunity by using non-discriminatory procedures for staff recruitment and selection.
* All staff have job descriptions, which set out their staff roles and responsibilities.
* We welcome applications from all sections of the community. Applicants will be considered on the basis of their suitability for the post, regardless of disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, sex, age, marriage or civil partnership. Applicants will not be placed at a disadvantage by our imposing conditions or requirements that are not justifiable.
* We follow the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and Ofsted guidance on checking the suitability of staff and volunteers who have unsupervised access to children. This includes obtaining references and enhanced criminal record check with barred list(s) through the Disclosure and Barring Service. This is in accordance with requirements under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2006) and the Protection of Freedoms Act (2012) for the vetting and barring scheme.
* Where an individual is subscribed to the DBS Update Service we carry out a status check of their DBS certificate, after checking their identity and viewing their original enhanced DBS certificate to ensure that it does not reveal any information that would affect their suitability for the post.
* We keep all records relating to employment of staff and volunteers, in particular those demonstrating that checks have been done, including the date of issue, name, type of DBS check and unique ref no from the DBS certificate along with details of our suitability decision.
* We require that our staff and volunteers keep their DBS check up to date by subscribing to the DBS update service throughout the duration of their employment with us.
* Staff are expected to disclose any convictions, cautions, court orders, reprimands and warnings which may affect their suitability to work with children – whether received before, or at any time during, their employment with us.
* We obtain consent from our staff and volunteers to carry out on-going status checks of the Update Service to establish that their DBS certificate is up-to-date for the duration of their employment with us.
* Where we become aware of any relevant information which may lead to the disqualification of an employee, we will take appropriate action to ensure the safety of children. In the event of disqualification, that person’s employment with us will be terminated.

*Notifying Ofsted of changes*

* We inform Ofsted of any changes to our Registered Person and our Supervisors.

*Training and staff development*

* Our setting Supervisors and deputy hold the CACHE Level 3 Diploma or higher for the Children and Young People’s Workforce or an equivalent qualification and a minimum of half of our staff hold the CACHE Level 2 Certificate for the Children and Young People’s Workforce or an equivalent or higher qualification.
* We provide regular in-service training to all staff - whether paid staff or volunteers - through the Pre-school Learning Alliance and external agencies.
* Our setting budget allocates resources to training.
* We provide staff induction training in the first week of employment. This induction includes our Health and Safety Policy and Safeguarding Children and Child Protection Policy and continues with other policies and procedures being introduced throughout the first term of employment.
* We support the work of our staff by holding regular supervision meetings and appraisals.
* We are committed to recruiting, appointing and employing staff in accordance with all relevant legislation and best practice.

*Staff taking medication/other substances*

* If a member of staff is taking medication which may affect their ability to care for children, we ensure that they seek further medical advice. Staff will only work directly with the children if medical advice confirms that the medication is unlikely to impair their ability to look after children properly.
* Staff medication on the premises will be stored securely and kept out of reach of the children at all times.
* If we have reason to believe that a member of staff is under the influence of alcohol or any other substance that may affect their ability to care for children, they will not be allowed to work directly with the children and further action will be taken.

*Managing staff absences and contingency plans for emergencies*

* Our staff take their holiday breaks when the setting is closed. Where staff may need to take time off for any reason other than sick leave or training, this is agreed with the Supervisor with sufficient notice.
* Sick leave is monitored and action is taken where necessary, in accordance with the contract of employment.
* We have contingency plans to cover staff absences, as follows:

A bank of relief staff

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| This policy was adopted by parents and staff of: | Leahurst Road Preschool |  |
| Deadline | September 2018 |  |
| Date to be reviewed | September 2019 |  |
| Signed on behalf of the provider |  |
| Name of signatory |  |
| Role of signatory (e.g. chair) |  |

**Other useful Pre-school Learning Alliance publications**

* The New Early Years Employee Handbook (2016)
* Recruiting Early Years Staff (2016)
* People Management in the Early Years (2016)