The Nest
CARE & HOLIDAY CLUB

The Nest SEND and Inclusion Policy

Policy Statement

The Nest is committed to providing an inclusive, welcoming and supportive environment where all children are valued as individuals and can participate in the activities and experiences offered.

We recognise that some children may have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and may require additional support, adaptations or reasonable adjustments to access and enjoy our provision.

We will work in partnership with children, parents/carers, Potton Primary School and, where appropriate, other professionals to understand and support each child's individual needs.

The Nest aims to promote equality of opportunity and to ensure that children are not treated less favourably because of a disability or special educational need.

Our Aims

We aim to:

- provide an inclusive environment where every child feels welcomed, valued and respected;
- work closely with parents/carers to understand each child's individual strengths, needs and routines;
- make reasonable adjustments to support children to access the provision wherever possible;
- promote children's independence, wellbeing, confidence and participation;
- ensure that staff understand the individual needs of the children in their care;
- work collaboratively with Potton Primary School and other relevant professionals where appropriate;
- communicate openly and honestly with parents/carers about the support we can provide;
- regularly review support arrangements to ensure they remain appropriate.

Identifying and Sharing Information About Individual Needs

Parents/carers are asked to provide The Nest with relevant information about their child's individual needs, including any special educational needs, disabilities, medical conditions, allergies, communication needs or other circumstances that may affect their time at the provision.

Parents/carers should provide as much relevant information as possible before their child starts at The Nest. This enables us to consider what support, adjustments or arrangements may be required.

Where appropriate and with parental knowledge, we may also work with Potton Primary School and other relevant professionals to gain a better understanding of a child's needs and the strategies that support them successfully.

Information will be shared with relevant members of staff on a need-to-know basis to ensure that children are appropriately supported while maintaining confidentiality.

Admissions and SEND

The Nest welcomes applications from children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

We will consider each application individually and will not refuse a place simply because a child has SEND or a disability.

However, as set out in our Admissions and Fees Policy, when considering whether a place can be offered, we must take account of the needs of all children attending the requested session, the staffing and support available, and our ability to safely and appropriately meet the individual needs of the child.

Where a child has additional or individual needs, we may need to discuss these with parents/carers before confirming a place. This may include considering:

- the child's individual needs and the support they require;
- any medical, behavioural, communication or personal care requirements;
- the child's ability to participate safely in the activities and routines of The Nest;
- reasonable adjustments that could be made;
- staffing levels and staff deployment;
- the needs of other children already attending the requested session;
- whether the provision has the skills, resources and facilities required to meet the child's needs safely and appropriately;
- advice or strategies already in place at school or from other professionals.

In some circumstances, we may not be able to offer a place immediately. This may be because the individual needs of children already attending a particular session mean that we are unable to safely and appropriately meet the needs of an additional child at that time.

Where this is the case, we will discuss whether a place may become available later or whether alternative sessions may be suitable.

Any decision regarding admission will be based on an individual assessment of the child's needs and the provision's ability to meet those needs at the requested time.

Reasonable Adjustments and Support

Where a child attends The Nest and requires additional support, we will consider reasonable adjustments to help them access the provision.

Depending on the individual child, this may include:

- adapting activities or routines;
- providing additional visual or communication support;
- making reasonable environmental adjustments;
- allowing additional time or support during transitions;
- using strategies already known to support the child successfully at school or at home;
- adapting communication methods;
- providing a consistent approach between staff;
- agreeing individual arrangements with parents/carers and, where appropriate, school.

The support provided will depend on the individual needs of the child and the nature of the sessions they attend.

Working with Parents and Carers

We recognise that parents/carers know their children best and value their knowledge and involvement.

We will work in partnership with parents/carers by:

- discussing their child's needs before they start where appropriate;
- sharing information about how their child is settling and participating;
- discussing any difficulties or concerns as they arise;
- agreeing appropriate strategies and support arrangements;
- reviewing arrangements where a child's needs change;
- communicating honestly about the support The Nest can provide.

Parents/carers are expected to keep The Nest informed of any changes to their child's needs, diagnosis, medication, support arrangements or circumstances that may affect their care.

Working with Potton Primary School and Other Professionals

As The Nest provides wraparound care for children attending Potton Primary School, working collaboratively with the school can be an important part of supporting children with SEND.

With appropriate parental knowledge and in accordance with our confidentiality and data protection procedures, we may share relevant information with school staff where this is necessary to support the child's safety, wellbeing and participation at The Nest.

Where appropriate, we may also take account of advice, strategies or recommendations from other professionals involved with the child.

The Nest is a separate wraparound childcare provision and is not responsible for delivering the educational provision set out in a child's Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). However, we will consider relevant information from an EHCP or other professional advice where this is necessary to understand and support the child's needs during their time at The Nest.

Individual Support Arrangements

Where additional support or specific arrangements are required, these will be discussed with parents/carers and recorded as appropriate.

Depending on the child's needs, arrangements may include:

- individual care or support plans;
- medical or healthcare plans;
- risk assessments;
- communication or behaviour support strategies;
- personal care arrangements;
- emergency procedures;
- agreed collection or transition arrangements.

These arrangements will be shared with relevant staff and reviewed when necessary.

Staffing and Training

The Nest will ensure that staff are provided with appropriate information about the individual needs of the children in their care.

Where reasonably possible, we will identify training or additional guidance that may help staff to support a child's particular needs.

However, parents/carers should understand that The Nest is a wraparound childcare provision and the level of specialist support available may differ from that provided within the school day or by specialist services.

Where a child's needs require a level of specialist support, staffing or expertise that The Nest cannot reasonably provide, we will discuss this openly with parents/carers and consider whether the placement can be safely and appropriately maintained.

Reviewing a Child's Placement

Children's needs may change over time. We will therefore review support arrangements where necessary.

If concerns arise about our ability to continue meeting a child's needs safely and appropriately, we will discuss these with parents/carers as soon as possible.

We will work with parents/carers to consider whether further reasonable adjustments or changes to support arrangements can be made.

In exceptional circumstances, where we are unable to safely meet a child's needs despite reasonable consideration of adjustments and support, it may be necessary to review whether The Nest remains an appropriate placement for the child.

Any such decision will be made following discussion with parents/carers and consideration of the individual circumstances. We will not end a placement solely because a child has SEND or a disability.

Equality and Non-Discrimination

The Nest is committed to promoting equality and inclusion.

Children will not be treated less favourably because of disability, special educational needs, race, religion or belief, sex, gender reassignment or any other protected characteristic.

We will take reasonable steps to remove barriers to participation and promote an environment in which all children feel included and valued.

Concerns and Complaints

Parents/carers who have concerns about the support provided for their child should initially speak to the Manager.

We will aim to address concerns openly and constructively and work with parents/carers to identify appropriate solutions where possible.

If a concern cannot be resolved informally, parents/carers may follow The Nest Complaints Policy.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually and updated where necessary to reflect changes in legislation, guidance, the needs of children attending The Nest and the operation of the provision.

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