

Rocks Lane Montessori Equality of Opportunity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy

Rocks Lane Montessori will welcome all people, children and teachers alike, and will not discriminate on the grounds of age, gender, sexuality, class, family status, means, disability, colour, ethnic origin, culture, religion or beliefs. We are committed to ensuring that our service is fully inclusive in meeting the needs of all children.

We will encourage our team to never make assumptions about other people on the basis of their race, religion, culture, colour, gender, ability or lifestyle. We will teach respect for others and provide accurate information and positive images of different cultures and lifestyles.

We will constantly review, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of our inclusive practices to ensure that they promote and value diversity and difference.

Equality Act 2010

This policy is written with respect to and compliant with The Equality Act 2010, which provides a structure to prevent discrimination and promote equality, fairness and uniformity in employment and admissions to the nursery.

The Equality Act came into force in October 2010 and brought together all existing anti-discrimination legislation (such as the Race Relations Act 1970 and The Disability Discrimination Act 1995). It identifies several 'protected characteristics' previously protected under separate equality legislation; Race, religion or beliefs, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, marriage and maternity and also strengthens other characteristics that were not provided cover by aspects of equality law.

Curriculum

In keeping with the Montessori philosophy, all children will be respected and their individuality and potential recognised, valued and nurtured. Opportunities will be given to children to understand and celebrate the similarities and differences between themselves and others. Our aim is to show respectful awareness of all the major events in the lives of the children and families within our nursery, as well as in our society as a whole.

Understanding of the World will form a core part of our curriculum, and a learning zone within our nursery space.

We ensure that our curriculum encourages diversity and inclusivity by:

- Creating an environment of mutual respect and tolerance;
- Modelling desirable behaviour to children and helping children to understand that discriminatory behaviour and remarks are hurtful and unacceptable;
- Positively reflecting the widest possible range of communities within resources;
- Avoiding use of stereotypes or derogatory images within our books or any other visual materials;
- Celebrating locally observed festivals and holy days;
- Ensuring that children learning English as an additional language have full access to the curriculum and are supported in their learning;
- Ensuring that disabled children with and without special educational needs are fully supported;
- Ensuring that children speaking languages other than English are supported in the maintenance and development of their home languages

Employment

No applicant for roles within our nursery will be rejected on the grounds of age, gender, sexuality, class, means, family status, disability, colour, ethnic origin, culture, religion or belief. We will always appoint the best person for each job and will treat all applicants fairly.

Registered persons, staff or volunteers must be committed to working within a framework of equality of opportunity to meet the social, physical, intellectual and emotional needs of all children in a safe, caring and stimulating environment.

- We advertise posts 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 suitability checks. This ensures fairness in the selection process.
- All our 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.

Discrimination

The setting is committed to anti-discriminatory practice to promote equality of opportunity and valuing diversity for all children and families using our setting. We aim to:

- Promote equality and value diversity within our service and foster good relations with the local community;
- Actively include all families and value the positive contribution they make to our service;
- Promote a positive non-stereotyping environment that promotes dignity, respect and understanding of difference in all forms;
- Provide a secure and accessible environment in which every child feels safe and equally included;
- Improve our knowledge and understanding of issues relating to anti-discriminatory practice,
- Challenge and eliminate discriminatory actions on the basis of a protected characteristic as defined by the Equality Act (2010) namely:
 - Age;
 - Gender;
 - Gender reassignment;
 - Marital status;
 - Pregnancy and maternity;
 - Race;
 - Disability;
 - Sexual orientation; and
 - Religion or belief.

Where possible, we will take positive action to benefit groups or individuals who are disadvantaged, have a disproportional representation within the service or need different things from the service.

Admissions

Our setting is open and accessible to all members of the community.

- We base our Admissions Policy on a fair system.

- We do not discriminate against a child or their family in our service provision, including preventing their entry to our setting based on a protected characteristic as defined by the Equality Act (2010).
- We advertise our service widely.
- We provide information in clear, concise language, whether in spoken or written form and provide information in other languages (where ever possible).
- We reflect the diversity of our community and wider society in our publicity and promotional materials.
- We provide information on our offer of provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities.
- We ensure that all parents are made aware of our Valuing Diversity and Promoting Equality Policy.
- We make reasonable adjustments to ensure that disabled children can participate successfully in the services and in the curriculum offered by the setting.
- We take action against any discriminatory, prejudice, harassing or victimising behaviour by our staff, volunteers or parents whether by:
 - Direct discrimination – someone is treated less favourably because of a protected characteristic e.g. preventing families of a specific ethnic group from using the service;
 - Indirect discrimination – someone is affected unfavourably by a general policy e.g. children must only speak English in the setting;
 - Discrimination arising from a disability – someone is treated less favourably because of something connected with their disability e.g. a child with a visual impairment is excluded from an activity;
 - 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.
 - We will not tolerate behaviour from an adult who demonstrates dislike or prejudice towards individuals who are perceived to be from another country (xenophobia).
- Displaying of openly discriminatory xenophobic and possibly offensive or threatening materials, name calling, or threatening behaviour are unacceptable on, or around, our premises and will be dealt with immediately and discreetly by asking the adult to stop using the unacceptable behaviour and inviting them to read and to act in accordance with the relevant policy statement and procedure. Failure to comply may lead to the adult being excluded from the premises.

The Designated Person is: Miss Rajka Krivokapic. In her absence, her Designated Deputy is available for staff to discuss their concerns.

Date: October 2018

Our Equality of Opportunity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy will be reviewed annually.