St Francis’ Nursery Unit

Personal, Social and Emotional Development Policy

Personal, social and emotional development is extremely important in the lives of the young children in our care. It is about their emotional well-being, understanding who they are, respecting others and the environment, forming and sustaining relationships, beginning to understand emotions and about developing positive dispositions to learn. It is very important that a child has good personal, social and emotional development, as this gives the children the best opportunity to succeed in the other areas of learning.

Children come to school with a wide range of personal, social and emotional experiences. Each child has had individual experiences that are unique to their home and immediate environment and family situation. We in St Francis’ Nursery Unit understand that these need to be recognised and addressed. Consequently each child is given the time that he/she needs to settle into the setting and staff understand that the Settling-In needs of each child are different. It is important that during the settling in period that staff establish a good relationship with both the children and parents/care givers. (See Settling In Policy).

Young children need to develop **confidence and self-esteem.** We help to develop this in our setting by encouraging the children:

- To make their own choices and decisions.
- To help others.
- To play in pair and groups.
- To organise their own play
- To tidy up
- To be independent throughout the day,

And by:

- Making them aware that they are valued as individuals
- Nurturing their motivation, perseverance, curiosity and creativity
- Encouraging them to problem solve
- Giving time for reflection.

Staff recognise that each child in our care is unique, with different personalities, abilities, backgrounds, interests and needs and therefore must be treated as such. It
is the role of the adult in our setting to cater for the individual needs of each child, but at the same time:

- Encourage him/her to form positive relationships with adults and peers.
- Teach him/her how words and actions can affect others and why we have rules.
- Help them to develop respect for others.
- Help them to appreciate the differences between people - like race, culture and disability.

This is done through role play, storytelling, talking about issues and Circle Time.

At all times the staff in our setting aim to act and speak to the children in a caring and encouraging manner, encouraging them to play positively with others and behave appropriately.

In order to foster **Personal, Social and Emotional development**, the staff in our setting work together to create an **ethos** where:

- The children feel safe and secure and have a sense of well-being
- Adults take time to listen to and interact with the children
- The staff are enthusiastic about the children's learning and development
- Children are given encouragement
- Children are encouraged to behave appropriately and to respect themselves, other people and their own play/work and that of their peers
- The staff respect the views and ideas of the children
- Children are encouraged to express their emotions appropriately
- Children are encouraged to be independent
- Children feel supported, cared for and loved.

**Within our setting children are given plenty of opportunities to develop personal and social skills, values and attitudes. These opportunities include the following themes:**

**Routines**

When carrying out the routines in the Nursery the children are encouraged to:

- Develop independence
- Take responsibility for themselves
- Make choices and decisions
- Help others
- Tidy up
Play Activities

During play the children are encouraged and supported in:
- Making independent choices
- Organising their own play
- Becoming independent
- Learning to co-operate, share and take turns
- Persevering with activities especially the ones that present difficulty.
- Working with materials that have therapeutic value such as water and sand
- Exploring their emotions
- Experiencing the exhilaration of exuberant play.

Stories, Rhymes, Music, Pictures and Drama

Through these activities the children in our setting are given opportunities to express their emotions, develop self-confidence and an awareness of others. The staff therefore aims to:
- Read stories about people and places.
- Develop the children’s imagination through creating stories, acting out character roles and using puppets
- Play music suggesting a variety of moods such as, happy, sad, scary and encourage the children to respond appropriately
- Help the children to identify the emotions of fear, happiness etc when discussing pictures, stories or interacting with one another.

The Environment

The staff in our setting realises that children are interested in and curious about their environment. The staff enhance this further by encouraging the children to:
- Care for plants and animals
- Observe aspects of nature and so develop a sense of wonder
- Take responsibility of caring for our Nursery environment and resources
- Talk about environmental issues such as litter and recycling.
- Recycle in the setting.
- Consider the needs of others in the environment.

Health, Safety and Hygiene

The Nursery staff agree that the pre-school setting is an ideal place to establish positives attitudes towards health, hygiene and safety. Through routines and activities the staff encourage the children to:
- Use the toilet and Toilet Area appropriately
- Be aware of the need to wash hands after messy play, before eating and after the toilet

[Type text]
Updated September 2105
• Use tissues appropriately
• Become aware of their own and others safety
• Adhere to safety rules and to use tools and equipment appropriately
• Understand the importance of healthy eating, exercise and getting enough sleep to stay healthy
• Understand the importance of wearing appropriate clothing in all types of weather and taking care in the sun
• Understand that medicines and other substances are dangerous in the wrong quantities
• Talk about “Stranger Danger” and become aware of road safety and safety issues related to the topics.