



Welldon Kids Club

Participation Policy

At Welldon Kids Club we believe that actively promoting the participation of children in the decision-making process creates a sense of partnership and benefits everyone at the Club: children, staff, and parents. We therefore involve the children whenever decisions are made that affect them.

We follow the principles set out in Articles 12 and 13 of the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* which state that:

- A child's opinion should be taken into account in anything that affects them.
- Children should have information disseminated in a way that enables them to make choices and decisions.

Involving and consulting children helps them to develop new skills such as negotiation, sharing, and understanding the perspectives of others. It helps them to understand how decisions are made, and shows them that their opinions are important. At the Club we actively consult the children and encourage them to participate in making decisions about the running of the Club through:

- Asking questions and paying full attention to the child's response, listening to what they are saying verbally (or through use of visual aids) and also observing their body language
- Group discussions
- Regular questionnaires and gathering other feedback on activities
- Noticeboards

The age and maturity of each child, together with the type of the decision being made, determine the extent and nature of their involvement, however, the basic assumption is always that children will be involved.

We make sure that we act on any consultation with the children so that they can see that their input has had visible outcomes. If children suspect that the consultation is just window-dressing they will disengage from the process.

At the Club the children have the opportunity to participate and make decisions -

- Choosing freely what type of play to engage in
- Choosing what snacks to eat
- Preparing snacks themselves
- Selecting new equipment for the club
- Drawing up club rules
- Using our suggestion box to request new resources, activities or other changes

This policy was adopted by: Michelle Langley	Date: 1 st April 2020
To be reviewed: 1 st April 2021	Signed: M Langley

Written in accordance with the *Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2017): Learning and Development Requirements [1.8]* and *Child protection [3.7]*.