



Behaviour Management Policy

At the Wooden Horse we believe that children flourish best when their personal, social and emotional needs are met, we also believe that they should have clear and developmentally appropriate expectations for their behaviour.

Our aim:

- We aim to teach children to behave in socially acceptable ways and to understand the needs and rights of others. We believe that the management of behaviour exists within the program for supporting personal, social and emotional development.
- We will meet our aims through the following methods:
- We have a named person who has overall responsibility for our program for supporting PSED, these include issues concerning behaviour.

The named person for behaviour is required to:

- Keep up to date with current legislation and research, needs to think about promoting positive behaviour and on handling children's behaviour where it may require additional support
- Attend relevant courses and training to support this role, keep staff updated on any new legislation
- Help to ensure that all staff, parents and students are expected to provide a positive role model of behaviour by treating children and other parents with care and courtesy at all times.
- Refer staff, students and parents to our behaviour management policy, and our guidelines for behaviour, where appropriate.

-We require all members of our Nursery - children, parents, staff, volunteers and students, to provide a positive model of behaviour by treating children, parents and one another with friendliness, care and courtesy.

-We expect all members of our Nursery - children, parents, staff, volunteers and students - to keep to the guidelines, requiring these to be applied consistently.

-We familiarize new staff and volunteers with the Nursery Behaviour Policy and its guidelines for behaviour.

-We recognise that codes for interacting with other people vary between cultures and require staff to be aware of - and respect - those used by members of The Nursery.

We work in partnership with all parents. Parents are kept informed of children's behaviour by their key person, we address reoccurring inconsiderate behaviour, by observation records to give us a clear understanding of the cause, and decide with the parents how to respond appropriately.

Strategies with children who engage in inconsiderate behaviour

- We require all staff, volunteers and students to use positive strategies for handling any inconsiderate behaviour, by helping children find solutions in ways which are appropriate for the children's ages and stages of development. Such solutions might include, for

example, acknowledgement of feelings, explanation as to what was not acceptable, and supporting children to gain control of their feelings so that they can learn a more appropriate response.

- We ensure that there are enough popular toys and resources and sufficient activities available so that children are meaningfully occupied without the need for unnecessary conflict over sharing and waiting for turns.
- We acknowledge considerate behaviour such as kindness and willingness to share. We praise and encourage.
- We support each child in developing self esteem, confidence and feelings of competence.
- We support each child in developing a sense of belonging in our group, so that they feel valued and welcome.
- We avoid creating situations in which children receive adult attention only in return for inconsiderate behaviour.
- When children behave in inconsiderate ways, we help them to understand the outcomes of their action and support them in learning how to cope more appropriately.
- We never send children out of the room by themselves.
- We never use physical punishment, such as smacking or shaking. Children are never threatened with these.
- We do not use techniques intended to single out and humiliate individual children.
- We use physical restraint, such as holding, only to prevent physical injury to children or adults and/or serious damage to property.
- Details of such an event (what happened, what action was taken and by whom, and the names of witnesses) are brought to the attention of the Owners and are recorded in the child's personal file. The child's parent is informed on the same day.
- In cases of serious misbehaviour, such as racial or other abuse, we make clear immediately the unacceptability of the behaviour and the attitudes, by means of explanations rather than personal blame.
- We do not shout or raise our voices in a threatening way to respond to children's inconsiderate behaviour.

Children under three years

- When children under three behave in inconsiderate ways we recognize that strategies for supporting them will need to be developmentally appropriate and differ from those for older children.
- We recognize that very young children are unable to regulate their own emotions, such as fear, anger or distress, and require sensitive adults to help them do this.
- Common inconsiderate or hurtful behaviours of young children include tantrums, biting or fighting. Staff are calm and patient, offering comfort to intense emotions, helping children to manage their feelings and talk about them to help resolve issues and promote understanding. Helping them learn more appropriate ways to interact.

Rough and tumble play and role play aggression

Young children often engage in play that has aggressive themes – such as superhero and weapon play; some children appear pre-occupied with these themes, but their behaviour is not necessarily a precursor to hurtful behaviour or bullying, although it may be inconsiderate at times and may need addressing using strategies as above.

- We recognize that teasing and rough and tumble play are normal for young children and acceptable within limits. We regard these kinds of play as pro-social and not as problematic or 'aggressive'.

- We will develop strategies to contain play that are agreed with the children, and understood by them, with acceptable behavioural boundaries to ensure children are not hurt.
- We recognize that fantasy play also contains many violently dramatic strategies - blowing up, shooting etc., and that themes often refer to 'goodies and baddies' and as such offer opportunities for us to explore concepts of right and wrong.
- We are able to tune in to the content of the play, perhaps to suggest alternative strategies for heroes and heroines, making the most of 'teachable moments' to encourage empathy and lateral thinking to explore alternative scenarios and strategies for conflict resolution.

Hurtful behaviour

We take hurtful behaviour very seriously. Most children under the age of five will at some stage hurt or say something hurtful to another child, especially if their emotions are high at the time. For children under five, hurtful behaviour is momentary, spontaneous and often without cognizance of the feelings of the person whom they have hurt.

- We recognize that young children behave in hurtful ways towards others because they have not yet developed the means to manage intense feelings that sometimes overwhelm them.
- We will help them manage these feelings as they have neither the biological means nor the cognitive means to do this for themselves.
- We understand that self management of intense emotions, especially of anger, happens when the brain has neurological systems to manage the physiological processes that take place when triggers activate responses of anger or fear.
- Therefore we help this process by offering support, calming the child who is angry as well as the one who has been hurt by the behaviour. By helping the child to return to a normal state, we are helping the brain to develop the physiological response system that will help the child be able to manage his or her own feelings.
- We do not engage in punitive responses to a young child's rage as that will have the opposite effect.
- Our way of responding to pre-verbal children is to calm them through holding and cuddling. Verbal children will also respond to cuddling to calm them down, but we offer them explanation and discuss the incident with them to their level of understanding.
- We recognize that young children require help in understanding the range of feelings experienced. We help children recognize their feelings by naming them and helping children to express them, making a connection verbally between the event and the feeling. 'Adam took your car, didn't he, and you were enjoying playing with it. You didn't like it when he took it, did you? It made you feel angry, didn't it, and you hit him'.
- We help young children learn to empathise with others, understanding that they have feelings too and that their actions impact on others' feelings. 'When you hit Adam, it hurt him and he didn't like that and it made him cry'.
- We help young children develop pro-social behaviour, such as resolving conflict over who has the toy. 'I can see you are feeling better now and Adam isn't crying any more. Let's see if we can be friends and find another car, so you can both play with one'.
- We are aware that the same problem may happen over and over before skills such as sharing and turn-taking develop. In order for both the biological maturation and cognitive development to take place, children will need repeated experiences with problem solving, supported by patient adults and clear boundaries.

- We support social skills through modeling behaviour, through activities, drama and stories. We build self esteem and confidence in children, recognizing their emotional needs through close and committed relationships with them.
- We help a child to understand the effect that their hurtful behaviour has had on another child; we do not force children to say sorry, but encourage this where it is clear that they are genuinely sorry and wish to show this to the person they have hurt.
- When hurtful behaviour becomes problematic, we work with parents to identify the cause and find a solution together. The main reasons for very young children to engage in excessive hurtful behaviour are that:
 - They do not feel securely attached to someone who can interpret and meet their needs - this may be in the home and it may also be at Nursery;
 - Their parent, or carer in the Nursery, does not have skills in responding appropriately, and consequently negative patterns are developing where hurtful behaviour is the only response the child has to express feelings of anger;
 - The child has a developmental condition that affects how they behave.
 - Where this does not work, we use the Code of Practice to support the child and family, making the appropriate referrals to a Behaviour Support Team where necessary. Behaviour support will support children of school age. The EYFS consultant can support and advise with regards to the under 4's.

We feel that some behaviours require intervention

Inconsiderate behaviour, this can include, a child being uncooperative, hitting out at one another, pushing. These kinds of behaviours are seen as mistakes that a child is making on the way to develop socially acceptable ways of dealing with conflict. We regard the child to be a learner of what is acceptable and in need of support. We use encouragement and positive modelling as we would in any learning skills

Hurtful behaviour or biting

This is taken seriously, most children under the age of 5, will at some stage throughout nursery life, say something hurtful to other children. Taking into account their emotions are sometimes high. Hurtful behaviour is normally done on a spur of the moment without thinking of the other child's feelings. Some children may engage in hurtful behaviour due to issue around their home life, these children require support and care. However, hurtful behaviour has an impact for the child on the receiving end and must be taken into consideration when responding to incidents of hurtful behaviour. Biting is taken very seriously, parents will be informed of any child who is bitten at nursery and an incident form is to be filled in. (See our specific biting policy for more details)

Strategies for children with inconsiderate behaviour:

- We require all staff and students to use positive methods to treat inconsiderate behaviour; we try to help the children find solutions in ways, which are age appropriate for the child's age and stage for development.
- We praise children for their efforts and achievements in resolving a dispute or learning a new social skill.
- We offer comfort to both children in a dispute and encourage them to find a way to resolve it.
- If the child continually behaves inappropriately they will have quiet time with a member of staff for example, reading a story.

This is a working document
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