MANAGING CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOUR POLICY

Principles

Policy's statement of intent

Kells & Connor Pre-school sets high expectations of behaviour through encouraging and praising good behaviour. We apply simple rules fairly and consistently. Under no circumstances do we use any form of punishment. We encourage children to respect themselves, each other and property. We aim to provide a happy, caring environment with challenging activities. In the case of a particular incident or persistent unacceptable behaviour we always discuss ways forward with parents.

Unwanted behaviour is behaviour likely to hurt, injure or upset another child, their self or an adult. Unwanted behaviour shows a lack of respect for others, disrupts their play and learning, and damages their property.

Procedures

Positive procedures for encouraging acceptable behaviour

- Agreed rules and boundaries are discussed with the children and are also displayed on the parents' notice board.
- Prevention – anticipation and removal of potential problems e.g. stop the fight before it happens.
- Praise or reward – all adults should offer explicit praise for good behaviour e.g. turn taking, co-operation, sharing, listening and drawing attention to the good behaviour rather than the bad.
- Provision – provide physically challenging and emotionally satisfying activities for children to “let off steam”.
- Clear expectations applied in a positive way – “no pushing in the line” becomes “stand nicely”.
- Leading by positive examples from adults.

In certain circumstances, such as racist language, physical abuse or dangerous behaviour an instant adult response is required.

Procedures for dealing with unwanted behaviour

- Give children the chance to resolve their disputes with appropriate guidance and support.
- Redirection – distract to another activity or join in with activity.
- A firm “NO” and a clear expectation of why the behaviour is unacceptable.
- Speak calmly, clearly and firmly to gain control.
- Give a warning of the consequences if the behaviour does not stop.
- Use the consequences, for example, removal of the situation or removal of the toy.
- A fresh start afterwards.

Procedures that are unacceptable for managing behaviour

These should never be used and if seen would and should be reported immediately to the leader. Such conduct could result in staff dismissal.

- Physical punishment including smacking, poking or rough handling.
- Using techniques that single out and humiliate children. Labelling the child rather that the behaviour as naughty or undesirable.
- Shouting, criticism, comparison or raising of voice in an inappropriate way. Shouting conveys a loss of control.
- Use of any other humiliating and frightening punishment including offensive language, name-calling or isolation.
- Physical restraint, e.g. holding, will not be used unless it is required to prevent injury to the child or any other children, adults or property. In cases where it is used the incident will be recorded and the parent/carer informed the same day.

Bullying type behaviour

This is highly distressing and damaging for children and will not be tolerated in the pre-school. Any complaint by a parent or carer that their child is, or may be, being bullied will be fully investigated by the Leader.
This policy has been adopted by the pre-school committee at a meeting on:

Date: __________________________

Signed: __________________________

(Chairperson)