



Children's Rights Policy Document

The Beacon Folkestone **Children's Right Policy**

Every person employed at The Beacon Folkestone, wherever they are, whoever they are with, whatever they are doing, has these fundamental responsibilities in their involvement with the children:

valuing children as individuals, means:-

- caring for and treating every child as unique
- talking to and about every child by their own name (not always as one of many; the group, the class, the kids).
- consistently caring for children across settings and encouraging children to be themselves.
- giving children enough time to take part, to do things for themselves, to understand and be understood.

treating children with appropriate dignity and respect, means:-

- addressing every child with respect: never referring to or about a child as if they are their disability, nor as if they are one of their needs (runner), nor as if they are a piece of equipment (as a wheelchair).
- involving the children in conversations; never talking about children as if they were not there ("has she been to the clinic?" "has he been done?" "does she want a drink?").
- respecting every child's privacy at all times and in all places
- treating all information about children carefully, keeping it safe and sharing it only with those people who need to know; never discussing one child in the presence of another child.
- giving the best possible care that can be provided.
- involving children in decisions that affect them: actively encouraging children to express their views and where these cannot be taken into account, then explaining why.

caring for the children as children first, means:-

- offering the same rights and choices and as far as possible the same kind of life as other children of age and culture.
- providing consistent care from staff who really care about them and know them well.
- actively supporting each child as part of a family: involving their parents fully in any planning for them and acknowledging their ultimate responsibility for their child.

- ensuring access to communication equipment at all times, and listening to and hearing the children when they need to communicate, even if it takes a long time, and even if they are not easy to understand.
- giving the children information about what is happening before it happens, (being moved, being taken somewhere, having something taken out of their bag), giving explanations of procedures before they occur
- giving children opportunities and help to play.

keeping children safe, means:-

- letting children know that it is their right to complain if things are troubling them
- not exposing children to unnecessary risks and protecting children from abuse:
 - physical abuse includes any physical punishment or unnecessary rough handling e.g. smacking, hitting, pinching, hair pulling, punching, kicking, biting.
 - emotional abuse includes malicious teasing and taunting, unjustifiably ignoring a child, controlling a child through fear, shaming or humiliating a child or deliberately misinterpreting a child's communication.
 - sexual abuse includes any sexual act or contact with a child (e.g. inappropriate touching, indecently exposing a child without due cause, involving a child in any interaction for your own sexual gratification
- being part of a service that is integrated; not letting children hear things that may undermine their faith in the service as a whole (e.g. disputes between staff or between departments).
- letting children know that they have all of these rights, all of the time they are at The Beacon.
- ensuring that all of the important adults in the child's life are aware of these basic rights, and being clear about what you and they can do if these rights are infringed or not respected

Every Child Matters

This document outlines the Government's vision for Children's Services and forms the basis of the Children Act 2004. It described the outcomes considered essential to well being in childhood and later life.

These outcomes are:

- Being healthy
- Staying safe
- Enjoying and achieving
- Making a contribution
- Achieving economic well being

The outcomes are reflected in The Beacon Folkestone School's Core Values and Code of Conduct.

Version	Reviewed	Reason for Update	Next review date	Governor agreement
1	Nov 15	Transfer Sept 2016	Nov 17	N/A