**1.1 Children’s rights and entitlements**

**Policy Statement**

Our aim is to provide a setting in which your child can progress from being a toddler to a "little person"; fully equipped to cope with the many challenges he/she will encounter on entering the more formal environment of school.

* We promote your child's right to be strong, resilient and listened to by creating an environment in our setting that encourages children to develop a positive self image. This includes their heritage arising from their colour and ethnicity, their languages spoken at home, their religious beliefs, cultural traditions and home background.
* We promote your child's right to be strong, resilient and listened to by enabling them to have the self-confidence and vocabulary to resist inappropriate behaviour displayed by others.
* We encourage your child to develop a sense of autonomy and high self-esteem through adult support in making choices. They will also be supported in finding names for their own feelings and acceptable ways of expressing them.
* We help your child to build on trusting and supportive relationships within their families, with peers and with other adults.
* We work with parents to build their understanding of, and commitment to, the principles of safeguarding all our children.

**What it means to promote children’s rights and entitlements to be ‘strong, resilient and listened to’.**

To be strong and resilient means to be:

* secure in their relationships
* able to be assertive and state their needs effectively
* safe and valued as individuals in their families and in relationships beyond the family, such as day care or school
* self assured and able to form a positive sense of themselves; including all aspects of their identity and heritage
* included equally in early years settings and in community life
* confident in their abilities and proud of their achievements
* progressing optimally in all aspects of their development and learning
* part of a peer group in which they learn to negotiate, develop social skills and identity as individuals; respecting the rights of others
* able to overcome difficulties and problems
* positive in their outlook on life
* able to cope with challenge and change.

To be listened to means:

* adults who are close to children recognise their need and right to express and communicate their thoughts, feelings and ideas
* adults who are close to children are able to tune in to their verbal, sign and body language, in order to understand and interpret what is being expressed and communicated
* adults who are close to children are able to respond appropriately and, when required, act upon their understanding of what children express and communicate
* adults respect children’s rights and facilitate children’s participation in imaginative and child centred ways in all aspects of nursery life.

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| **This policy was adopted at a meeting of the****Meadow Nursery School Parents’ Association Committee**  |
| **Held on** | 31st March 2014 |
| **Policy reviewed** | March 2021 |
| **Date to be reviewed** | March 2022 |
| **Signed by Chair** |  |
| **Name** | Jo Hargreaves |
| **Signed by Nursery Manager** |  |
| **Name**  | Debbie Hill |