



CARGILFIELD

PARTICIPATION POLICY

At Cargilfield we believe in actively promoting the participation of children in the decision-making process allowing a sense of partnership; benefitting children, staff and parents/carers.

We actively promote the seven 'Golden Rules' of participation in the nursery at Cargilfield. These are:

- Understand my rights
- A chance to be involved
- Remember – Its my choice
- Value Me
- Support Me
- Work Together
- Keep in Touch

Further information can be found on the link below:

<https://www.cypcs.org.uk/get-help/teachers/golden-rules/>

We therefore aim to 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 considered 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 Cargilfield we actively consult the children and encourage them to participate in making decisions about the running of our Nursery 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

CARGILFIELD SCHOOL

45 Gamekeeper's Road, Edinburgh, EH4 6HU

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observing their body language

- Floor book topic response and question sessions.
- Conferencing and group discussions between staff at meetings and between children and staff.
- Regular parent questionnaires and feedback opportunities. Staff feedback on activities and experiences.
- Eco Committee (whole school).
- Noticeboards for parents and staff with up to date reading and information.
- Regular opportunities for parent participation during interactive Stay and Plays.
- Active displays for children that feed into planning and decision making, such as; Wall of Wonder, Our Learning Journey and Children's Voice.

The age and maturity of each child, together with the type of 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.

At Cargilfield, the children have the opportunity to participate and make decisions on a day to day basis, including, but not limited to:

- Choosing freely what type of play to engage in inside and outside.
- Suggestions of activities, and preferred resources, topic choices and volunteering to participate in responsive learning trips.
- Choosing how much food they would like and suggesting snack menus.
- Laying the tables at snack.
- Helping tidy up the nursery classroom and garden.
- Selecting new equipment.
- Drawing up rules/ expectations for behaviour at nursery.
- Activity planning.
- Conducting risk assessments in the nursery garden, nature classroom and at the beach.
- Conducting play/risk benefits.

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Practice in the Cargilfield nursery is informed by the Care Inspectorate Guidance (see links below):

<https://hub.careinspectorate.com/media/4723/childrens-rights-uncrc-scotland-introduction.pdf>

<https://hub.careinspectorate.com/media/4721/child-rights-wellbeing-impact-assessment-crwia-external-guidance.pdf>

Updated May 2023 by Tiffany Murdoch, Head of Nursery

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