

**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

observing their body language

• A weekly newspaper documenting what they have been doing

• Conferencing and group discussions

• Questionnaires and gathering other feedback on activities

• Eco Committee (whole school)

• Noticeboards

• Our ‘It’s Good to be Me’ display

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 today basis, including, but not limited to:

• Choosing freely what type of play to engage in inside and outside

• Suggestions of games

• 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

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 January 2023, Jan Harber Head of Nursery