Involving and Consulting Children Policy

Consulting with children is good practice and is beneficial not only to the setting but also to the children and staff.

Skylark Day Nursery's commitment stems from "listening to children" - articles 12 and 13 from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

These state that:

- A child's opinion should be considered on anything that affects them.
- Children should have information disseminated in a way that enables them to make choices and decisions.

Children learn new skills from consultation such as, listening, negotiation, sharing and understanding. It helps them understand how decisions are made and the importance and value of their opinion.

There are many benefits of approaching planning in this way. Children feel that they have ownership in their setting, which can result in better behaviour. This is largely due to the fact children will feel that they are working in partnership and that the setting provides activities for their needs and interests.

All children will be consulted and listened to on a regular basis; the consultation will be done in the following formats:

- Taking notice of what the children say in everyday conversations.
- Observing and monitoring body language and behaviour.
- Through drama and role play.
- Through play and visual aids.
- Question and answer sessions.

We actively support children to have a voice, which is age, stage and ability appropriate. Listening to children is central to our values. Included within this, children have the right to say no and we use scenarios and discussions with children to give them the tools to protect themselves within the setting, online and outside of the setting.

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The type of decision and the level of involvement from the children will be assessed by the appropriateness and the maturity of the children. However, it is important to involve the children as much as possible in decision making.

The consultations will be monitored, and outcomes noted, so that the children can see their opinions are regularly acted upon. If consultation is seen to be inappropriate there will be an explanation as to why that has been decided.

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Review Date	Name	Position	Signature