



Founded 1904  
Registered Charity No 528912

## Expressive Arts and Design Policy

### RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL

This policy is in accordance with the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

**Article 28** Every child has the right to an education.

**Article 29** Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to their full.

**Article 31:** Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

The child has

A hundred languages

A hundred hands

A hundred thoughts

A hundred ways of thinking

Of playing, of speaking..." Loris Malaguzzi

At Selly Oak Nursery School we believe that children express themselves in different ways and our role as adults is to facilitate their learning by planning activities around their preferred interests and learning styles. We observe children closely and take photographs to document their learning. We believe the expressive arts are a vehicle for learning. Children are encouraged to express themselves in many ways verbal and non-verbal. At Selly Oak the process of learning is valued as much as the final product.

During child-initiated sessions, children are able to take part in activities where they can be innovative and where practitioners are available to support them and value their ideas. There are also adult initiated activities where practitioners model skills and knowledge and encourage children to use the techniques in work of their own.

Throughout all nursery activities, children's own ideas are valued and incorporated. Children are encouraged to evaluate their own work saying what it is they like and suggesting ways that they could make their work even better. Children are encouraged to work in groups and alone. They are given opportunities to work on large and small scales, on different surfaces such as tables, the floor, at easels, both indoor and out.

We aim to create a stimulating environment where resources are accessible to children. Children can explore and discover high quality resources that stimulate their senses and imagination in each area. For example, in the library there are book bags with different kinds

of puppets to support children's interests. In the role-play areas there are dressing up clothes and artefacts from different cultures in the Discovery area, children will find natural materials of different textures, find out about life cycles of plants and animals, water, sand and exploratory play. They have opportunities to create their own stories through our small world fantasy boxes. They will discover mirrors and reflective materials and will be able to work with the light table, with transparent and non-transparent materials.

Different forms of representation are encouraged throughout the nursery. There are small and large role-play areas, which are changed according to the interests of the children. There are writing areas and a moveable writing trolley with pencils, pens, felt-tips and chalk available. The creative room has a range of 2D and 3D materials; there are various paints, collage materials, junk modelling materials, clay, chalk, and dough. Children are encouraged to use a variety of puppets to express themselves and to make puppets of their own.

### **Music and Dance.**

Music is well resourced enabling children to explore sound both alone and with others. We have a large hall, where there is plenty of space to combine the use of instruments with movement. We are also fortunate in having sturdy outdoor instruments made from recycled materials. Creativity through music and sound is encouraged both through adult directed play in which the children are taught listening skills and how to care for and use the instruments correctly and in child initiated sessions, indoor and out.

Children have the opportunity on a daily basis to sing within their groups.

We are fortunate to have an extensive library of tapes and cd's including traditional rhymes, classical music, music from a variety of cultures and dance music that are used regularly.

We also use singing and music to enhance other curriculum areas such as Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Mathematical Development and Physical Development.

It is the policy of the nursery to celebrate children's creativity by displaying children's own work using good quality backing materials and borders that enhance the child's efforts. Often photographs of the learning process are displayed. This helps parents and staff value the child's creativity and reflect on their learning. The nursery encourages children to participate in music, dance and drama with others. Children and their families are invited to share and participate in celebration events.

We use various artists/dancers to influence the work of our children and enhance the curriculum and are given the opportunity to experience expressive arts within the community

Agreed by Selly Oak Nursery School Governing Body on:-

Signed .....

Dated .....

Review Date:.....