

# **Additional Support Needs Policy**

## **(Meeting Learners Needs)**



### **Our Vision**

Our vision is to make Cart Mill Family Centre the best place to grow and learn. We aim to help every child have fun, thrive, and develop according to their individual needs, talents and abilities. We respect children and their right to be a child. The wellbeing, learning and development of each individual child is carefully supported, nurtured and challenged in our learning spaces.

### **Our Aim**

The aims of this policy are:

- To ensure the legislative duties relating to additional support needs are being met
- To ensure that all individual children are included and achieving within Cart Mill Family Centre
- To guide and support progress in developing a nurturing environment
- To ensure there is a robust model in place for early intervention for those children in our care who need support, either targeted or specialist.
- To support and develop the confidence of our staff.

### **Rationale**

Taking our guidance from the Additional Support for Learning Act (2004) (updated 2018) we will make suitable provision for each child with an additional support need. This is identified in the act as “a young person who, for whatever reason, requires additional support, in the long or short term, in order to help them make the most of their education and to be fully included in their learning” (Scottish Government).

We will ensure that children with an additional support need will have their needs met through Joint Support Team meetings, discussions with families and appropriate outside agencies such as Speech and Language or an educational Psychologist. Where appropriate, a child may be given a wellbeing plan to ensure their needs are being met and appropriate targets being set to allow each child to achieve their full potential. Within the wellbeing plan, the parents have the opportunity to offer their views as does the child. The Children and Young Person (Scotland) Act, 2014 expresses that children’s views should be taken into account when making decisions about their future and encourages all public bodies to consider the rights of the child when preparing reports.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024 incorporates the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into law in Scotland. As a Rights

Respecting School our commitment to children's rights is reflected through staff language and actions when working with children, families and the community.

### **Our Team**

Partnership working is key to meeting learners' needs. Within Cart Mill we have a Joint Support Team made up of our Head Teacher (chair), Depute Head of Centre (ASN Co-ordinator), Nursery Teacher and various outside agencies including Educational Psychologist, Speech and Language Therapist, Outreach support and local Health Visitors but all staff have a responsibility to include and care for our children.

At Cart Mill, we ensure that all staff are offered appropriate training and given advice to meet all our learners' needs. Staff are encouraged to adapt learning environments to ensure inclusive pedagogy. They are invited by the leadership team to actively participate in meetings, have input in wellbeing plans, visit other centres and support strategies to ensure the needs of all learners are being met.

UNCRC Article 2 No Discrimination: All children have all these rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what language they speak, what their religion is, what they think, what they look like, if they are a boy or girl, if they have a disability, if they are rich or poor, and no matter who their parents or families are or what their parents or families believe or do. No child should be treated unfairly for any reason.

UNCRC Article 3 Best Interests of the Child: When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children. All adults should do what is best for children

UNCRC Article 12 Respect for Children's Views: Children have the right to give their opinions freely on issues that affect them. Adults should listen and take children seriously.

UNCRC Article 23 Children with Disabilities: Every child with a disability should enjoy the best possible life in society.

UNCRC Article 29 Aims of Education: Children's education should help them fully develop their personalities, talents and abilities. It should teach them to understand their own rights, and to respect other people's rights, cultures and differences.

UNCRC Article 31 Rest and Play: Every child has the right to rest, relax and play.

**Policy review date July 2026**