

1.15 St Gregorys Childcare Trust Kids Club Involving and Consulting Children

Kids Club staff are committed to the principle of involving and consulting children whenever decisions are made that would affect them.

The Club believes that actively promoting the participation of children in the decision making process is beneficial to children, staff and the Club as a whole. The Club's commitment to involving and consulting children stems from listening to the provisions set out in Articles 12 and 13 of the United Nations conventions of the rights of a child. These state that:

- Children have the right to say what they think should happen when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account.
- Children have the right to get and share information, as long as that information is not damaging to them or to others.

Involvement and consultation helps children to develop new skills such as negotiating, sharing and understanding the perspectives of others. It helps them to understand how decisions are made and recognise that their opinions are important. All children will be listened to and consulted actively. This will take a number of forms, including:

- Listening to what they say in speech and other forms of communication
- Observing body language and behaviour
- Drama and role play
- Play and creative expression and the use of visual aids
- Regular group based Q and A sessions
- Questionnaires and other regular feedback on activities at the Club
- Regular children's meetings, between children and staff, discussing the Club's activities and any other relevant topics.

Age, maturity and the type of decision being made will determine the extent and nature of children's involvement. However, the emphasis should always be strongly in favour of involving children. Consultation and involvement will be regularly monitored and acted upon so that children are able to see that their input has led to visible outcomes. The staff meet once a week and discuss any ideas that the children may have and will offer clear explanations if the ideas are deemed inappropriate.