**HANSEL & GRETEL PRE-SCHOOL**

 **STATEMENT OF POLICIES**

**Safeguarding:**

Our group intends to create an environment in which children are safe from abuse and in which any suspicion of abuse is promptly and appropriately responded to. We will comply with Health & Social Services Guidelines on Child Protection and will appoint designated persons to deal with Safeguarding issues in our setting.

**Supporting Childrens Behaviours and Feelings:**

Our group believes that children and adults flourish best in an ordered environment in which everyone knows what is expected of them and children are free to develop their play and learning without fear of being hurt or hindered by anyone else. We aim to work towards a situation in which children can develop self-discipline and self-esteem in an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding.

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

We aim to offer equality of opportunity for all children, parents, carers, staff/volunteers within the group. We are a cross community group open to all regardless of religion, culture, race, ethnic origin or disability. Any discriminatory language, behaviour or remarks are unacceptable and will be positively challenged by supporting the victim and helping those responsible to understand and overcome their prejudices.

**COMMENTS & COMPLAINTS**

Our Group endeavours to work in partnership with parents / carers. We welcome the views of everyone in the setting about the service we provide. Comments / complaints help us to ensure that your views, preferences and requests can be taken into account in the development and adaptation of our services and where appropriate acted upon.

**SETTLING IN**

We want the children in our group to feel safe and happy in the absence of their parents, to recognize other adults as a source of authority, help and friendship and to be able to share with their parents afterwards the new learning experiences enjoyed at Pre School. To assist in the settling-in process we introduce new families into the group on a staggered basis and encourage parents / carers to separate from their children for short periods at first gradually building up to longer absences.

**SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS**

As a group we believe that all children regardless of their individual needs have the right to a broad balanced and purposeful early years curriculum and full access to all activities. We welcome children with a disability/learning difficulty and aim to provide places where possible for the integration of children with Special Education needs. The procedures we follow in our group are set out under the Five Stages of the Code of Practice for SEN as detailed in our policy.