

Involving and Consulting Children

Our club and all its members of staff are committed to the principle of involving and consulting children whenever decisions are made within the club that affect them.

The club believes that actively promoting the participation of children in the decision-making processes is beneficial to children, staff and the club as a whole.

The clubs commitment to involving and consulting children stems from the listening to children provision set out in articles 12 and 13 of the United Nations Convention on the rights of the child. These state that:

- A Childs opinion will be taken into account in anything that affects them.
- Decisions will have information given in a way that enables them to make choices and decisions.

For children, involvement and consultation helps them to develop new skills such as negotiating, sharing and understanding the perspectives of others. It helps them to understand how decisions are made and recognises that their opinions are important.

For both staff and the club, there are multiple benefits of such an approach such as improved behaviour, a relationship with children based on partnership, a more cohesive environment and activities and decisions that children feel a sense of ownership over.

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.
- Through play and creative expression and the use of visual aids.
- Observing body language and behaviour
- Drama and role play
- Via regular based discussions and Q and A sessions.
- Questionnaires and other regular feedback on activities
- Suggestions box
- Regular childrens meetings between children and staff, discussing the clubs activities and menus for the following week, plus 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 club and its staff will also be clear about what decisions children will be involved in the attempt to offer clear explanations if and when consultation and involvement is deemed appropriate.

Signed _____ **(Manager)** _____ **(Date)**

Signed _____ **(Chairperson)** _____ **(Date)**