



Harvard Park Policies and Procedures:

Children's Rights and Entitlements

2. Children's Rights and Entitlements

Policy statement

This statement underpins the policies and procedures—in particular, to Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults procedures. It is important that all staff uphold and work with the principles and ethos within this statement.

We support the 54 Articles contained within the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). We recognise that these articles apply to children globally and draw attention to the disparity between and within countries and across regions of the world in the way that children receive and enjoy basic rights. We support organisations and statutory agencies to promote recognition and achievement of children's rights to ensure a better experience for all children.

Our 'four key commitments' are broad statements against which policies and procedures are drawn to provide a consistent and coherent strategy for safeguarding children young people and vulnerable adults.

1. We are committed to empowering children, young people and vulnerable adults, promoting their right to be 'strong, resilient, actively listened to and heard'.
2. We uphold a culture of safety in which children, young people and vulnerable adults are protected from abuse and harm in all areas of its curriculum and service delivery.
3. We are committed to preventing harm and responding promptly and appropriately to all incidents or concern of abuse that may occur. Working with statutory agencies to achieve the best possible outcomes for every child.
4. We are dedicated to increasing safeguarding confidence, knowledge and good practice throughout its training and learning programmes for adults, advocating support and representation for those in greatest need.

What it means to promote children's rights and entitlements to be 'strong, resilient and listened to':

To be strong means to be:

- secure in their foremost attachment relationships where they are loved and cared for, by at least one person who can offer consistent, positive and unconditional regard and who can be relied on.
- safe and valued as individuals in their families and in relationships beyond the family, such as day care or school.
- self-assured and form a positive sense of themselves – including all aspects of their identity and heritage.

- included equally and belong in early years settings and in community life.
- confident in abilities and proud of their achievements.
- progressing optimally in all aspects of their development and learning.
- to be part of a peer group in which one learns to negotiate, develop social skills and identity as global citizens, respecting the rights of others in a diverse world.
- to participate and be able to represent themselves in aspects of service delivery that affects them as well as aspects of key decisions that affect their lives.

To be resilient means to:

- be sure of their self-worth and dignity.
- be able to be assertive and state their needs effectively.
- be able to overcome difficulties and problems.
- be positive in their outlook on life.
- be able to cope with challenge and change.
- have a sense of justice towards self and others.
- to develop a sense of responsibility towards self and others.
- to be able to represent themselves and others in key decision-making processes.

To be listened to means:

- adults who are close to children recognise their need and right to express and communicate their thoughts, feelings and ideas.
- adults who are close to children can tune in to their verbal, sign and body language to understand and interpret what is being expressed and communicated.
- adults who are close to children can respond appropriately and, when required, act upon their understanding of what children express and communicate.
- adults respect children's rights and facilitate children's participation and representation in imaginative and child centred ways in all aspects of core services.

This policy was adjusted by Harvard Park.
Date meeting was held on 30/04/2026
Signed on behalf of the Directors and Proprietors
Nicki Saunders and Tracey Milstead