

# Hind Leys Pre-School & Natural Play Centre

## Curriculum Policy

Hind Leys Pre-School undertakes to provide a balanced curriculum, working towards the early learning goals of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum for children's learning on entering compulsory education, and in accordance with our policies on equal opportunities and special needs. To this end we will:

- Draw up yearly, termly and weekly curriculum plans.
- Use Keyworker observations to prepare play plans for the children.
- Hold weekly staff meetings to prepare and evaluate curriculum plans.
- Daily staff reflections and logs.
- Keep records of children's achievements from Pre-School and from home.
- Offer staff training.
- Wherever possible, share plans and curriculum information with parents, through social media, learning stories and logs.

### Forest School Ethos

Forest School is an educational concept originating in Scandinavian countries in particular Denmark and Sweden. It involves children spending time in a local natural environment on a regular basis. It gives children a link to nature and we adopt a forest school approach through off site day and it is woven through our work throughout the week at Pre-School. It provides a balance of structure, freedom, exploration and flexibility and is personalised and inclusive to each child.

At present our Owls go offsite daily and our Robins up to 3 times a week. We use the surrounding countryside, woodland and near to Garendon Park for our visits. Risk assessments, health and safety procedures and a high staff ratio are appropriate and in place. We go all year round and so we advise parents of children who attend on that day to pay particular attention to all weather clothing (all- in-one waterproofs are excellent) and wellies and a change of clothes are essential. We have a wooden truck that we take that includes all the necessary supplies or equipment that we need to take with us.

The benefits are endless. Children have the opportunity to explore nature first hand, take part in practical activities and have their imagination and creativity stimulated. The experience of using the tools, making dens and climbing trees creates lifelong learning and is never forgotten. Children have the opportunity to work alongside the adults and be in control. It fosters self esteem and well being, skills and knowledge and prevents a detachment from nature and the outdoors. We keep a journal of 'Awe and Wonder' with our children to record experiences, plan and create a picture of the "Forest School" work that we do.