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Supporting children with additional needs

The Athelstan Nursery is aware that some children have additional educational needs and/or physical disabilities that require particular support and assistance. We are committed to taking appropriate action to make sure that all children are able to access our services, made to feel welcome, and that our activities promote their welfare and development.

The setting is committed to the integration of all children in its care. The setting also believes that children with special educational needs and/or physical disabilities have a right to play, learn and be able to develop to their full potential alongside other children. Whenever possible, children with special educational needs and/or physical disabilities will have access to the same facilities, activities and play opportunities as their peers. Everybody stands to gain if all children are allowed to share the same opportunities and are helped to overcome any disadvantages that they may face.

The policies, procedures and practices of the setting in relation to the children with special educational needs and/or physical disabilities are consistent with current legislation and guidance. These include the Special Educational Needs Disability Act 2001 and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. A copy of our local offer can be viewed in the appendix section, on our website and our parent notice board.

The setting believes that by identifying individual needs and taking proactive steps alongside parents/carers and other statutory professionals or agencies, all children should be able to play a full, active and equal part in the setting's activities.

Special Educational Needs and Disability Co-ordinator (SENCO)

Nicky Robinson is the Special Educational Needs and Disability Co-ordinator and is required to manage provision for children with special educational needs and/or physical disabilities. **Nicky Robinson** is fully trained and experienced in the care and assessment of such children.

All members of staff will be expected to assist the Special Educational Needs and Physical Disability Co-ordinator in caring for children with special educational needs and/or physical disabilities. The Co-ordinators responsibilities will include:

- Ensure that all staff are aware of legislation, regulations and other guidance on working with children with special educational needs and/or physical disabilities.
- Ensure that all staff that work with children with special educational needs and/or physical disabilities has appropriate skills and training.
- Co-ordinating regular monitoring and reviews of children's progress; involving parents/carers, other members of staff, relevant representatives from statutory agencies and, if appropriate, the child themselves. SENCo will also be responsible for ensuring that any actions following such reviews are followed through.
- Assessing each child's specific needs and adapting the settings facilities, procedures, practices and activities as appropriate.
- Ensuring that systems are in place to adequately plan, implement, monitor, review and evaluate the Special Needs policy.
- Ensuring that children with special needs and/or physical disabilities are fully considered when activities are being planned and prepared.
- Liaising with parents/carers about the needs of their children and the plans and actions of the setting as well as being the point of contact for parents/carers.
- Liaise with other agencies and seek advice, support and training for themselves and other staff as necessary.
- Support other members of staff to become more skilled and experienced in the care of children with special needs and/or physical disabilities.
- Ensure that all children are treated with equal concern and respect and are encouraged to take part in all activities.
- Ensure that accurate observations and assessments of children's progress are regularly made and properly recorded.

Nursery Manager: _____ Committee: _____

Policy Date: _____ Review Date: _____