



ASSESSMENT OF A CHILD'S NEEDS

Amended February 2011

This Policy defines the basic framework for assessing and establishing the needs and values of the child. This cross-references more detailed policies where these are relevant:

1. Assessing and agreeing a child's individual needs will be a co-ordinative exercise between the child's parents / guardians / carers and Nursery staff (ref. Policy No 221 - *Partnership with Parents & Carers*).
2. A child's needs will be assessed and addressed from the following standpoints:
 - 2.1 **Physical Needs:**
 - adequate space to move and play;
 - a safe and hygienic environment in which children are kept comfortable and healthy.
 - 2.2 **Baseline Assessment of Educational Needs** - centred upon the 6 Key Areas of Learning:
 - Personal, Social & Emotional Development;
 - Communication, Language and Literacy;
 - Problem Solving, Reasoning & Numeracy;
 - Knowledge and Understanding of the World;
 - Physical Development;
 - Creative Development.
 - 2.3 **Dietary Needs** (ref. Policy No 470 - *Menu Planning*):
 - likes & dislikes;
 - foods forbidden by religion, faith or culture;
 - allergies;
 - clinical diets.
 - 2.4 **Health and Medical Needs:**
 - medication (ref. Policy No 323 - *Medication*);
 - personal care and hygiene;
 - toileting.
 - 2.5 **Cultural, Ethnic and Religious Needs:**
 - customs and practices;
 - dress codes;
 - festivals and celebrations;
 - food and drink;
 - worship.
 - 2.6 **Social and Moral Needs:**
 - likes & dislikes; care and affection - family background / home experiences;
 - promotion of self-esteem and pride, and fostering independence;
 - interaction with others;
 - behaviour.
3. Where a child requires Special Needs, this is addressed in Policy No 204 (Equal Opportunities & Diversity) & 303 (Special Needs)