01. 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 at ASK Kindergarten & Clubs (ASK) uphold and work with the principles and ethos within this statement.

ASK supports 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.

As an early years provider and a member of the Early Years Alliance, ASK follows the Alliance's 'four key commitments' that 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. ASK is committed to empowering children, young people, and vulnerable adults, promoting their right to be 'strong, resilient, actively listened to, and heard'.
2. ASK 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. ASK is committed to preventing harm and responding promptly and appropriately to all incidents or concerns of abuse that may occur. Working with statutory agencies to achieve the best possible outcomes for every child.
4. ASK is 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** means to be:

- *secure* in their foremost attachment relationships, where they are loved and cared for by at least one person who is able to 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 ASK and in community life;
- *confident in their own abilities* and *proud* of their achievements;
- *progressing optimally* in all aspects of their development and learning;
- *part of a peer group* in which they learn to negotiate, develop social skills and an identity as global citizens, respecting the rights of others in a diverse world; and
- *able to participate and 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 themselves and others;
- develop a *sense of responsibility* towards themselves and others; and
- 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 are able to *tune in* to their verbal, sign and body language in order to understand and interpret what is being expressed and communicated;
- adults who are close to children are able to *respond appropriately and, when required, act upon their understanding* of what children express and communicate; and
- 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 adopted by:	ASK Kindergarten & Clubs
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Signatory:	Mark Stewart
Role of Signatory:	Owner & Ofsted Registered Provider