

## **STATEMENT OF ETHOS**

Contemporary life puts children under increasing pressure to grow up as quickly as possible. Despite current research which shows that children pressurised into early learning suffer from high levels of anxiety and stress, sleep problems and low self-esteem, the drive towards fast-tracking children through childhood continues.

The aim of the kindergarten is to allow the children to learn through their imagination and imitative faculties and to develop their natural potential and confidence with a warm, secure and calm environment. In the kindergarten the child's innate willingness to learn is strengthened to become second nature, which lasts a life time.

In the home-like environment, simple domestic activities such as baking, cooking, cleaning, gardening and sewing encourage free imitation and support the life of the kindergarten. Such activities have strong social, practical, moral and educational basis and value. Their fulfilment provides a good example for the child, who absorbs and then reflects the moral and ethical actions and values of those around him. The emphasis on the kindergarten as a small community helps foster social skills and gives every child a sense of belonging. We welcome children of all cultural, racial, social and religious backgrounds. We strive to provide an education imbued with a fundamental respect for the individuality of each human being.

A wide range of artistic activities, with an emphasis upon creative play, will allow the children to explore creativity using all their senses. They will be able to explore colours through 'wet-on-wet' painting; sounds and words through playing with musical instruments and listening and joining in at ring time or story time; play with colour and shape while drawing or modelling with bees wax, and developing their body and sense of movement harmoniously, through both fine and gross motor gestures.

Through these varied experiences, both practical, artistic and through creative play, children have the opportunity to develop healthy emotional, social and physical skills, as well as fine listening, speaking and basic numeracy skills.

All healthy children love to play, and self-initiate play is a great natural teacher. Through their play, children gather knowledge and understanding and find situations where they can practise their developing competence. They also have the opportunity to develop interactive skills such as co-operation, empathy, intuition and the ability to see things from the perspective of the other. Our play equipment is made from natural and environmentally friendly raw materials.

During our sessions, children move freely from child-initiated activities to teacher-led activities. The role of the kindergarten teacher is to be a facilitator and a support for the children in their learning. In so doing, the teacher helps the child to grow independent and become personally responsible for 'managing' his or her own activities.

We aim to develop respect for the natural world and the environment through environmentally friendly practices for example, recycling where possible, and caring for the garden. We try wherever possible to serve organic food which is always freshly prepared and vegetarian.