

NEW HOPE-WORCESTER

INVOLVING AND CONSULTING CHILDREN POLICY

We are a child-led organisation. New Hope-Worcester and its entire staff are committed to the principle of involving and consulting children wherever possible. We understand children need to use different methods of consultation and will always try to cater for each child's individual needs, enabling all children to be involved.

New Hope-Worcester believes that actively promoting the participation of children in the decision-making process is beneficial to children, staff and our organisation as a whole.

In accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the child;

- A child's opinion will be taken into account in anything that affects them.
- Children will have information disseminated in a way that enables them to make choices and decisions.

In recognition of the complex needs of the children who attend New Hope-Worcester, direct consultation may not always be possible. Managers will visit schools and make home visits to consult with parents/carers and other professionals, to gather information on likes and dislikes of children. A variety of activities will be organised in response.

All children will be listened to and consulted actively. This will take a number of forms, including;

- Listening to what they say in speech and other forms of communication.
- Observing body language and behaviour.
- Through play and creative expression and the use of visual aids.
- Use of picture cards and individual information given to us upon registration of the child.
- Questionnaires and other feedback on activities, to be completed at the end of each holiday club.

For both staff and managers, there are multiple benefits of such an approach, such as improved behaviour, a relationship with children based on partnership, a more cohesive environment and activities and decisions that children feel a sense of ownership over.