**Vision (what we want to achieve)**

Here at Stebbing Green Day Nursery we are part of a childcare company that aspires to grow but never loses sight of the importance of a safe, happy and learning child in the world. Children are at the centre of our world, We are passionate about making sure each child feels listened to, building self confidence in children to interact with their environment, adults and peers sharing views and perspective on the world.

**Mission (what, who and how we will achieve our vision)**

To provide environments in which children feel safe, secure and happy to learn and develop at their own pace by ensuring our staff are trained, motivated and valued. We will celebrate individuality and cultural capital through our daily routines, activities and interactions.

**Core Values (how we as a staff team will behave during the process of achieving our vision)**

*Honest Passionate*

*Selfless Respectful*

*Professional Committed*

*Proactive*

In addition, our staff adhere to our company **Code of Conduct Policy.**

**Aims (how we deliver best practice)**

* We aim to provide a high-quality foundation of care for all the children attending. The children’s needs always come first.
* Our belief is that children fare best when they feel safe and secure. We consider it our responsibility to ensure that all children are provided with love, affection, and intellectual stimulation at all times within a safe and caring environment.
* We are aware of the need to have good working relationships with parents so that we can work together for the good of the child.
* To achieve these aims the Nursery believes that all staff working within the Nursery follows these ideals:
  + - *Be friendly and approachable*
    - *Be positive and respectful of children from all backgrounds and abilities*
    - *Give reassurance, encouragement and praise*
    - *Value children and treat them as individuals*
    - *Encourage children to explore and try out new activities*

**Our Ethos (our characteristic spirit that manifests in our attitudes and aspirations)**

* **‘’Planting the seeds of kindness; kindness to ourselves, kindness to others, and kindness to nature’’.**

**Kindness to ourselves:** We aim to promote self-confidence, self-awareness and self-belief in all, and support children to value and look after their own health and wellbeing. The importance of staying active, eating well, being ambitious and ‘having a go’ positive mindset is embedded into our practice as is standing up for what we believe, and being true to ourselves.

**Kindness to others:** The respect and kindness that we show to each other, towards our peers, and towards the wider community builds trust, respect, and lasting professional friendships. Adults model effective partnerships, value the contributions of others, and teach about the values of appreciating and celebrating differences. The nursery Endeavours to reach out to those less fortunate in the communities around us, through fundraising and charity donations.

**Kindness to nature:** We appreciate all of nature’s creations and help children to learn about the world around them. We model and encourage care towards plants and animals, teaching children to notice, respect, and value the beauty through daily routines and a forest school approach. The nursery is considerate towards oceans and the environment by cutting back on the use of plastics and being careful not to waste precious resources such as water and electricity. We educate children about the effects of Littering on our animals and their habitats and encourage reusing, recycling, and upcycling.

* **We are family friendly and a welcoming home from home.**

Stebbing Green Day Nursery by its nature, is a Character setting. Part of our nursery began in an original, large house and has grown into a successful, well established and thriving setting. It has the sounds, sights, and smells of a home. We recognise the value of a homely atmosphere and the important role it plays in children feeling comforted, settled and a sense of belonging. Many of our practitioners are long standing members of our nursery community and some have grown with the nursery from the very beginning – this allows them to preserve and pass on our family friendly spirit ethos to others.

We are our own large family and are proud to have seen up to three generations of families coming through our setting. As a result, we have great connections to people and services in the local area. There is a strong sense of community spirit and warmth, and Stebbing Green Day Nursery understands that children thrive when they feel safe, well cared for, valued, and included. Children are the key contributors in our community and adults care about what they say. We recognise that this is one of our best qualities and enjoy seeing the positive impact that our community spirit has on their development.

* **Whole setting approach to supporting positive mental health and well-being.**

We are proud of our investment in nurturing children and adult’s mental health and well-being. We educate our practitioners to deliver a whole setting approach and dedicated ‘TPP’ mindset to help recognise the signs and symptoms of trauma, children, adults, and practitioners. We are at the beginning of our journey, and plan to fully integrate TPP into our policies, procedures, and practices to help us actively identify, manage, and reduce the impact of trauma in children and colleagues. We understand the importance of supporting children, adults, and practitioners to be confident and self-aware, resilient, and empathetic towards others. We aim to create a safe, open, and emotionally supportive environment for all.

**Natural and real objects, loose parts play and Curiosity learning.**

We are passionate about real world learning for all children. Using natural or ‘real’ materials that can be moved, carried, combined, redesigned, lined up, taken apart and put back together in multiple ways. They are materials with no specific set of directions, objects that inspire curiosity, exploration, and discussion. The process both of introducing loose parts and curiosity inspired play and of playing with natural and real objects involves collaboration, shared thinking, problem-solving and decision-making where the outcome is evident – better play experiences. Facilitating quality play in our settings’ environments contributes to children’s improved health and well-being, promoting the development of creativity, imagination, self-confidence, self-efficacy, as well as physical, social, cognitive, and emotional strength and skills.

In our setting we introduce loose parts play both indoors and outdoors and swap out plastic resources in favour of open ended natural or ‘real’ objects and materials from the outside world because we appreciate the benefits it has on children. We teach children to value and explore everything the natural world has to offer. This kind of play stimulates children’s minds so they can learn and grow, and can easily be applied to different contexts, environments, and age ranges. It is also inclusive of children with additional needs of support. They are not prescriptive and offer limitless possibilities and there is no right or wrong way of using them so children can be as creative as they want to be without feeling that they are not using them correctly. This means children have full control and can direct their play activity.

* **Technology**

Technology is already part of our children’s everyday worlds and experiences. A television remote, cd player, and self-scan checkouts are all engaging technologies and present exciting learning opportunities for children to engage with the world around them. Technology is part of their present and future, and we want to prepare children by giving them skills, competencies, and enthusiasm to flourish in a world in which they are growing up. We enhance children’s play experiences and learning using technology in a physical, social, and interactive way with engaging resources such as ‘lego coding express’ (early coding) and ‘Osmo’ (bringing real world accessories to life through collaborating, creating, and thinking critically). We encourage the development of social interactions, problem solving, listening, communicating, and reasoning as well as enabling childrens cognitive development, physical control and coordination, symbolic reading and visual representations.

* **The great outdoors**

The outdoors is an inspirational environment, which offers ALL learners regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a woodland or natural environment with trees. In our setting, it is our aim to implement forest school inspired teaching and learning encouraging children to use the natural resources around them and explore nature. We give the children the freedom to use their imaginations with no time limit and no specific end result. Forest school inspired learning gives the children the opportunity to create their own games and ideas and share them with their peers. Each session can change dependant on what the children are interested in that day. We aim to make children more resilient to the outdoor environment and teach them skills that will help them throughout life. Outdoor play and learning take place in all weathers except if dangerous and unsafe for the children such as ice or lighting. There are specific areas in which we carry out forest school sessions as they are more natural and unspoilt. Forest school inspired learning gives the children the opportunity to learn skills that could help them such as building fires, erecting temporary shelters and wood calving in a safe environment. We carry out ‘risk benefits’ as opposed to risk assessments. This ensures the children get the most from the experience, but safely.

**Related policies:** Nursery vision and Philosophies, Code of Conduct Policy.

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| This policy was adopted by: Stebbing Green Day Nursery | Date: April 2021 |
| To be reviewed: April 2022 | Signed: Terri Barnett |