



ROSEMARY NURSERY & CHILDREN'S CENTRE



POLICY FOR CELEBRATIONS AND FESTIVALS

RATIONALE (Why do we need this policy)

Inclusion is central to our philosophy and practice. We aim to be transparent in our planning for celebrations and festivals, to encourage participation and so that all families know that they are respected and valued.

AIMS (Why do we celebrate festivals?)

- To gain and share understanding of the beliefs, traditions and cultural heritages of our community
- To celebrate and reflect the diversity of our community and the world in which we live
- To promote "British Values", particularly "mutual respect for, and tolerance of, those with different faiths and beliefs and to those without faith"
- To make connections between life in the nursery and the wider community
- To enable children and adults to identify and respect similarities and differences
- To promote social cohesion
- To meet the aims of the Early Years Foundation Stage guidance documents.

GUIDELINES (How and what do we celebrate?)

Covid restrictions

- In the school year 2021 -COVID 19 Pandemic - Due to COVID restrictions on large gatherings we will be celebrating and learning about festivals in a different way.
- Parents are not coming into the classroom at present but if a parent would like to support Nursery through a video of the festival they celebrate, this will be welcomed.

- On-line learning journals and parent newsletters will be used as a key way of communicating about festivals and celebrations.
 - We encourage parents and carers to post photos of their celebrations on their child's on-line learning journal at any time as this supports the child's learning, especially their social and communication development.
1. The main festivals of our faith communities will be celebrated throughout the year, as they arise, as will individual birthdays. We also recognise those festivals that are celebrated by the extended communities.
 2. The celebrations include the following elements:
 - A planned group time experience
 - Learning a few simple songs (1-3)
 - A display in the entrance to Nursery
 - Playing of relevant music in Nursery
 3. When Covid restrictions allow, parents and carers will be invited into the Nursery to share food from their own cultures and to share in and learn about the festival being celebrated.
 4. Children's birthdays are celebrated in the key group (or large group, when Covid risk assessments permit) as appropriate to the individual child, by
 - Lighting and blowing out candles on a cardboard cake
 - Singing 'Happy Birthday' in English and in the child's home language where relevant
 - Parents and carers are encouraged to provide a healthy alternative to cake, such as special fruits like star fruit or mango, if they would like to offer a celebratory snack for their child to share with their key group. Any such food will be shared following COVID guidelines.
 5. Parents/carers/staff and community members are encouraged to share their experiences of festivals and celebrations with their key person. The expectation is that children attending the Nursery will take part in all celebrations and festivals.

This policy was developed in 2008 through a process of consultation with staff, parents and partner organisations and is revised annually.

The policy should be read in conjunction with our Equalities and Inclusion policies.

Review Date March 2021

Next Review March 2022