**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY – Children’s rights and entitlements.**

(To be read in conjunction with all other Safeguarding policies)

Cowling Preschool will take all necessary steps to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. We ensure that we promote children’s rights to be strong, resilient and listened to.

**Policy Statement.**

We promote children’s rights to be *strong, resilient and listened to* by creating an environment in our setting that encourages children to develop a positive self-image, which includes their heritage arising from their colour and ethnicity, their languages spoken at home, their religious beliefs, cultural traditions and home background. We also promote children’s rights by encouraging them to develop a sense of independence, and to have the self-confidence and vocabulary to resist inappropriate approaches.

We work with the children to help establish and sustain relationships within their families, with peers and with other adults, and we also work with parents and guardians to build their understanding of, and commitment to, the principles of safeguarding all our children.

**What ‘*strong resilient and listened to’* Means at Cowling Preschool.**

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 their family, such as our preschool setting;
* self-assured and form a positive sense of themselves – including all aspects of their identity and heritage;
* included equally and belong in our setting and in community life;
* confident in abilities and proud of their achievements;
* progressing optimally in all aspects of their development and learning;
* to be part of a peer group in which to learn to negotiate, develop social skills and identity as global citizens, respecting the rights of others in a diverse world; and
* to participate and be able to represent themselves in aspects that affect them as well as aspects of key decisions that will 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 self and others;
* develop a sense of responsibility towards self 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 on .………………………………….......**

**Date to be reviewed ...……………………………………..**

**Signed on behalf of the management committee …………………………………………**

**Name of signatory …………………………………………**

**Role of signatory (e.g. Chair/owner) …………………………………………**