

## **HOLIDAYS CLUBS INVOLVING AND CONSULTING CHILDREN POLICY**

**We are a child-led organisation. The School and its staff are committed to the principle of involving and consulting children wherever possible. We understand that 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.**

The School believes that actively promoting the participation of children in the decision-making process is beneficial to children, staff and the clubs 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 the clubs, direct consultation may not always be possible. Playleaders 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 passports.
- Questionnaires and other feedback on activities, to be completed at the end of the four weeks.

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