

Activities, Creative Practice & Learning Environment Policy

Creative Makers

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Next Review Date: 01.01.2027

1. Policy Statement

Creative Makers provides a calm, inclusive and child-centred creative learning environment designed to support the wellbeing, confidence and development of children and young people. Activities are carefully planned to be engaging, accessible and emotionally safe, with a strong focus on creativity as a means of communication, regulation and personal growth.

Our provision recognises that many children attending may have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), anxiety, sensory processing differences, trauma histories or previous negative educational experiences. Therefore, our creative practice prioritises emotional safety, autonomy and flexibility alongside skill development.

2. Aims of Our Creative Provision

Our activities are designed to:

- Support emotional regulation and wellbeing
- Develop confidence and self-esteem
- Encourage self-expression and communication
- Build independence and resilience
- Provide opportunities for success
- Support fine motor skills and coordination
- Encourage collaboration and social connection

Creativity is used as a tool for development, not simply as an outcome.

3. Our Approach to Creative Practice

Creative Makers uses a **process-led approach**, meaning the emphasis is on exploration and experience rather than producing a “perfect” end result. This reduces pressure and anxiety and allows children to engage in ways that feel safe.

Children are given:

- Choice over materials and methods
- Flexible expectations
- Time to work at their own pace
- Support to develop ideas without fear of failure

Staff provide guidance, modelling and encouragement while respecting individual autonomy.

4. Types of Activities Offered

Activities may include:

- Art and mixed media
- Textiles and sewing
- Photography and digital media
- Craft and design projects
- Nature-based creative activities
- Cooking and creative food preparation

Activities are adapted to suit age, ability, sensory needs and emotional readiness.

5. Safe and Supportive Learning Environment

The environment is structured to reduce stress and sensory overload. We aim to provide:

- A calm, low-arousal atmosphere
- Clear organisation of materials
- Predictable routines
- Safe storage of equipment
- Comfortable working areas
- Access to outdoor creative spaces

The space is arranged to allow movement, regulation breaks and flexibility.

6. Inclusion and Accessibility

We actively adapt activities to ensure participation for all children. Adjustments may include:

- Simplifying instructions
- Providing visual supports
- Allowing alternative methods

- Reducing sensory demands
- Offering breaks
- Providing emotional reassurance

Participation is encouraged but never forced. Children can observe, join gradually or take time out as needed.

7. Supporting Emotional Regulation Through Creativity

Creative activities are used as a tool for:

- Reducing anxiety
- Providing sensory input
- Supporting focus
- Offering a non-verbal communication method

Staff remain aware that emotional wellbeing is more important than task completion.

8. Outdoor Creative Practice

Outdoor spaces such as the garden and forest areas are used for nature-based creative exploration. Activities are supervised and risk assessed. Outdoor work supports wellbeing, sensory regulation and connection to the environment.

9. Respect for Materials and Environment

Children are taught to:

- Use tools safely
- Care for shared materials
- Respect others' work
- Tidy up with support

This supports responsibility and independence.

10. Staff Role in Creative Sessions

Staff act as facilitators rather than directors. Their role includes:

- Creating a safe emotional environment

- Modelling curiosity and calmness
 - Supporting problem-solving
 - Encouraging without pressure
 - Monitoring wellbeing
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11. Monitoring and Adaptation

Activities are continually adapted in response to children's interests, needs and emotional presentation. Flexibility is central to our approach.

12. Policy Review

This policy is reviewed annually or in response to changes in provision.

At Creative Makers, creativity is not just an activity — it is a pathway to wellbeing, confidence and connection.