Clybiau Llywodraethwyr a Chylch Chwarae
Gresffordd Gresford
Governors' Clubs and Playgroup

Children's Participation Policy

Equality Act Impact Assessment	YES	NO	Ionawr 2025
Last Review Date	May 2026		
Date to be reviewed	May 2027		
Date Adopted by Management Committee	10.06.2026		
Responsible Individual - Mr Richard Hatwood			
Chair of Management Committee – Mrs Jan MacDonald			

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all children involved in GGCP activities are given the opportunity to express their views, contribute to decisions affecting them, and actively participate in activities that enhance their well-being and development. This policy is designed to align with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) and Welsh Government requirements, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which Wales has formally adopted.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all GGCP staff, trustees, and volunteers who work directly or indirectly with children. It covers all forms of children's participation within GGCP's activities, programs, and services, ensuring children's voices are valued, respected, and acted upon.

3. Policy Statement

GGCP is committed to:
- Creating an inclusive environment that respects children's rights and encourages their active participation.
- Ensuring that all children feel safe, valued, and able to express their views freely.
- Promoting children's decision-making skills, self-confidence, and sense of belonging.
- Complying with Care Inspectorate Wales and Welsh Government standards on children's participation and safeguarding.

4. Key Principles of Participation

GGCP recognizes the following key principles for effective participation in line with Welsh Government guidelines:

- Respect for Children's Rights: GGCP acknowledges the rights of children to be heard, make choices, and participate in decisions that affect them.
- Inclusivity: All children, regardless of background, ability, or circumstances, should have opportunities to participate.
- Empowerment: GGCP aims to empower children to express their views and actively participate in ways that support their growth and well-being.
- Transparency and Feedback: Children should understand how their views are used in decision-making, and feedback should be provided to show how their input has influenced outcomes.

5. Participation Procedures

5.1 Creating a Safe Environment for Participation
- GGCP will foster a safe, welcoming environment that encourages open communication and expression.
- Activities and discussions will be age-appropriate, inclusive, and accessible to all children, regardless of their communication abilities or needs.
- Staff and volunteers will use positive language and active listening to support children in sharing their ideas and experiences.

5.2 Gathering Children's Views
GGCP will use a variety of methods to ensure all children have opportunities to express their views and preferences, including:
- Direct Conversations: Staff will engage children in regular conversations to understand their likes, dislikes, and preferences.
- Group Activities: Structured group discussions, circle time, and feedback sessions will encourage children to share their thoughts collaboratively.
- Creative Expression: Art, storytelling, and other creative activities will allow children to express themselves in non-verbal ways.
- Suggestion Boxes: GGCP will provide a suggestion box where children can submit ideas anonymously if they feel more comfortable doing so.

5.3 Incorporating Feedback into Decision-Making

- GGCP will actively consider children's views in planning activities, organizing events, and making improvements to services and facilities.
- Children will be involved in decisions affecting their day-to-day experiences, such as selecting themes for activities, choosing snacks, or arranging play areas.
- The Board of Trustees and staff will review and consider children's feedback when making strategic decisions that impact services.

5.4 Providing Feedback to Children

- GGCP will provide age-appropriate feedback to children, explaining how their ideas and suggestions have been used or, if not feasible, the reasons why.
- Feedback may be given through conversations, group discussions, visual aids, or noticeboards to keep children informed of changes or updates based on their input.

6. Staff and Volunteer Responsibilities

6.1 Training
- All staff and volunteers will receive training on children's rights, participation principles, and effective communication strategies.
- Refresher training on participation methods and understanding the UNCRC will be provided regularly to ensure ongoing commitment.

6.2 Supporting Children's Participation
- Staff and volunteers are responsible for creating an inclusive, respectful environment that values children's voices.
- Staff will encourage and facilitate participation, respecting each child's preferred way of communicating and their individual pace.

7. Safeguarding and Confidentiality

- GGCP is committed to safeguarding children's welfare throughout all participation activities, ensuring that any concerns are promptly addressed following the Safeguarding Policy.
- GGCP will handle all information shared by children confidentially, only sharing details necessary to facilitate their involvement or protect their well-being.

8. Complaints and Concerns

- GGCP encourages children to express any concerns or complaints freely, ensuring they feel comfortable in addressing issues with staff or through an anonymous means if preferred.
- Staff and volunteers will take all complaints seriously, following GGCP's Complaints Policy to resolve issues promptly.

9. Evaluation and Continuous Improvement

9.1 Monitoring Participation Activities
- GGCP will regularly monitor the effectiveness of participation activities to ensure they are engaging and inclusive.
- Staff and trustees will review feedback from children and other stakeholders to assess how well the participation approach meets children's needs.

9.2 Annual Review of Participation Policy
- This policy will be reviewed annually by the Board of Trustees to ensure it remains relevant, effective, and compliant with Welsh Government standards and CIW requirements.
- Adjustments will be made as necessary to reflect new guidance, feedback from children, or changes in GGCP's activities.

10. Compliance with Welsh Government and CIW Requirements

This policy is designed to meet the requirements set out by Care Inspectorate Wales and the Welsh Government, reflecting the UNCRC principles and the National Participation Standards for Wales. Staff and trustees are encouraged to familiarize themselves with these requirements to uphold GGCP's commitment to children's rights and participation.

11. Contact Information

For further information, questions, or feedback regarding this policy, please contact:
- Designated Participation Officer: Jessica Jenkins
- Chair of Trustees through the office. (01978 852342 or playgroup@allsaints-pri.wrexham.sch.uk)