



# ROCKS AND PEBBLES LTD



## Admissions and Fees Policy

Rocks and Pebbles is registered with Ofsted; We provide care for children between the ages of 3 and 11, primarily serving the children of Myatt Gardens Primary School.

Places are offered on a first-come first-served basis. When all places have been filled a waiting list will be established, with the children attending the school where the club is based taking priority.

### ***Registration***

When an enquiry regarding places is made, parents or carers will be given all the relevant Club information, including:

- Information regarding availability of places
- Details of the **Admissions and Fees** policy
- Registration form, medical form, parent contract, booking form, photo permission form
- **Behaviour Management** policy
- **Complaints** policy
- **Club Handbook**

If a place is available, the parents and child will be invited to visit the club for an induction. The child will be able to attend the Club as soon as the completed forms are received.

If no places are available the parent will be inform and the child's name added to the waiting list. As soon as suitable places become available parents will be informed.

### ***Booking procedure***

Parents must complete the necessary paperwork, ie contract, registration, medical, booking and photo permission forms, before their children can attend the club.

- **Permanent place:**

Once booked, if a child does not attend for any reason, you will still be charged for this place. If you wish to cancel the place altogether, one month's notice in writing is required.

- **Temporary booking:**

We will accept temporary or occasional bookings as long as there are places available. If a temporary place has been booked and is no longer required, the club must be given 48 hours notice. If notice is not given, the place will still be charged for.

### ***Fee structure***

Fees are charged at £11 per session per child or £50 per week.

The Club recognises that childcare can be costly, so we encourage eligible parents or carers to claim the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit. We are also registered to accept childcare vouchers. [See parent handbook for a list of childcare vouchers accepted]

- Fees are payable weekly, monthly, termly in advance
- Fees can be paid by cheque, electronic transfer, cash or direct debit
- There will be a charge of £5 for every 15 minutes, or part of 15 minutes for late collection, which will be due when you arrive to collect your child.
- Fees are charged for booked sessions whether the child attends or not
- We offer a discount for siblings

### ***Payment of fees***

Fees are required at least 1 week in advance or 1 month in advance if payments are made monthly, including childcare vouchers and are reviewed annually. The Club will consider requests for variation to payment terms on an individual basis. Anyone making these requests should contact the manager at the earliest opportunity. Any queries regarding fees should be directed to the manager.

If fees are not paid, the Club will write to the parent or carer, requesting payment. If the parents or carers are having difficulty making the payment on time we recommend that they arrange a meeting with the manager as soon as possible.

Where there is no explanation for repeated late payment, the manager will contact the parents or carers to discuss payment options. The manager may issue a formal warning to the parent or carer informing them that continued late payment will result in their child's place at the Club being withdrawn.

If the fees remain unpaid after all the above options have been explored, the Club may have to cancel the child's place.

## **Behaviour Management Policy**

Rocks and Pebbles uses effective behaviour management strategies to promote the welfare and enjoyment of children attending the Club. Working in partnership with parents, we aim to manage behaviour using clear, consistent and positive strategies. The Club rules are clearly displayed at every session, and are discussed regularly.

Whilst at Rocks and Pebbles we expect children to:

- Use socially acceptable behaviour
- Comply with the Club rules, which are compiled by the children attending the club
- Respect one another, accepting differences of race, gender, ability, age and religion
- Develop their independence by maintaining self-discipline
- Choose and participate in a variety of activities
- Ask for help if needed
- Enjoy their time at the Club.

### **Encouraging positive behaviour**

At Rocks and Pebbles positive behaviour is encouraged by:

- Staff acting as positive role models

- Praising appropriate behaviour
- Sticker rewards
- Informing parents about individual achievements
- Offering a variety of play opportunities to meet the needs of children attending the Club.

It is inevitable that as children develop and learn, there are times when they need support and guidance to understand that their behaviour is not acceptable. Staff at the Club will try to determine the cause or triggers of the inappropriate behaviour to prevent the situation from recurring.

### **Dealing with inappropriate behaviour**

- Challenging behaviour will be addressed in a calm, firm and positive manner.
- In the first instance, the child will be temporarily removed from the activity.
- Staff will discuss why the behaviour displayed is deemed inappropriate.
- Staff will give the child an opportunity to explain their behaviour, to help prevent a recurrence.
- Staff will encourage and facilitate mediation between children to try to resolve conflicts through discussion and negotiation.
- If the inappropriate behaviour appears to be as a result of boredom, staff will consult with the child to find activities that more fully engage them.
- Staff will consult with parents to formulate clear strategies for dealing with persistent inappropriate behaviour.
- We will not threaten any punishment that could adversely affect a child's well-being (eg withdrawal of food or drink).

If after consultation with parents and the implementation of behaviour management strategies, a child continues to display inappropriate behaviour, the Club may decide to exclude the child in accordance with Suspensions and Exclusions which form part of this policy. The reasons and processes involved will be clearly explained to the child.

### **Physical intervention**

Physical intervention will only be used as a last resort, when staff believe that action is necessary to prevent injury to the child or others, or to prevent significant damage to equipment or property. If a member of staff has to physically restrain a child, the manager will be notified and an **Incident record** will be completed. The incident will be discussed with the parent or carer as soon as possible.

If staff are not confident about their ability to contain a situation, they should call the manager or, in extreme cases, the police.

All serious incidents will be recorded on an **Incident record** and kept in the child's file. This may be used to build a pattern of behaviour, which may indicate an underlying cause. If a pattern of incidents indicates possible abuse, we will implement child protection procedures in accordance with our **Safeguarding Children and Child Protection** policy.

### **Corporal punishment**

Corporal punishment or the threat of corporal punishment will *never* be used at the Club.

We will take all reasonable steps to ensure that no child who attends our Club receives corporal punishment from any person who cares for or is in regular contact with the child, or from any other person on our premises.

### **Suspension and Exclusion**

Rocks and Pebbles are committed to dealing with negative behaviour in a non-confrontational and constructive manner. Whenever possible, disruptive or challenging behaviour will be tackled collectively between staff and children in the club. Such procedures are outlined in this policy.

However, there are occasions when such strategies alone will not alter or prevent negative behaviour. In such cases, further action will be necessary, including reviewing a child's place at the club, on either a temporary or permanent basis.

Persistent unacceptable behaviour from a child will result in them receiving a formal warning from staff about their actions. Staff will explain to the child why their behaviour is unacceptable and the consequences of any further such incidents. Children will be encouraged to discuss their behaviour, to explain their actions, and helped to develop strategies to avoiding repeat incidents.

Details of all warnings, suspensions and exclusions will be recorded and kept on the clubs records. Each warning should be discussed with the child concerned and their parent/carer. All staff will be made aware of any warnings given to a child. As a last resort, the club has the right to temporarily suspend or permanently exclude a child in the event of persistent and irresolvable unacceptable behaviour.

Only in the event of and serious or dangerous incident will a child be suspended from the club with immediate effect. In such circumstances, the child's parent/carer will be contacted immediately and asked to collect their child, even if the child normally signs themselves out. Children will not be allowed to leave the premises until a parent/carer arrives to collect them.

After an immediate suspension has taken place, the manager will arrange a meeting with the child concerned and their parent/carer to discuss the incident and decide if it will be possible for them to return to the club.

Suspensions and exclusions should be seen as consistent, fair and proportionate to the behaviour concerned. In setting such a sanction, consideration should be given to the child's age and maturity. Any other relevant information about the child and their situation should also be considered.

Children will only be suspended or excluded as a last resort, when there is no alternative action that could be taken, or when it is felt that other children and/or staff are potentially at risk. Wherever possible, the club will give parents/carers time to make alternative arrangements for childcare during a period suspension.

Staff should always keep parents/carers informed about behaviour management issues relating to their child and attempt to work with them to tackle the causes of disruptive or unacceptable behaviour.

No member of staff may impose a suspension from the club without prior discussion with the manager. Staff will consult the manager as early as possible if they believe that a child's behaviour is in danger of warranting suspension or exclusion.

When a suspension is over and before a child is allowed to return to the club, there will be a discussions between staff, the child and their parent/carer, setting out the conditions of their return.

## Complaints Policy

At Rocks and Pebbles we aim to work in partnership with parents to deliver a high quality childcare service for everyone. If for any reason we fall short of this goal, we would like to be informed in order to amend our practices for the future. Our complaints policy is displayed on the premises at all times. Records of all complaints are kept for at least three years. A summary of complaints is available for parents on request.

The manager is usually responsible for dealing with complaints. If the complaint is about the manager, the registered person or other senior member of staff will investigate the matter. Any complaints received about staff members will be recorded on an **Incident log** and a **Complaints log** will be completed. Any complaints made will be dealt with in the following manner:

### *Stage one*

Complaints about aspects of Club activity:

- The manager will discuss the matter informally with the parent or carer concerned and aim to reach a satisfactory resolution.

Complaints about an individual staff member:

- If appropriate the parent will be encouraged to discuss the matter with staff concerned.
- If the parent feels that this is not appropriate, the matter will be discussed with the manager, who will then discuss the complaint with the staff member and try to reach a satisfactory resolution.

### *Stage two*

If it is impossible to reach a satisfactory resolution to the complaint through informal discussion, the parent or carer should put their complaint in writing to the manager. The manager will:

- Acknowledge receipt of the letter within 7 days.
- Investigate the matter and notify the complainant of the outcome within 28 days.
- Send a full response in writing, to all relevant parties, including details of any recommended changes to be made to the Club's practices or policies as a result of the complaint.
- Meet relevant parties to discuss the Club's response to the complaint, either together or on an individual basis.

If child protection issues are raised, the manager will refer the situation to the Club's Child Protection Officer, who will then contact the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and follow the procedures of the **Safeguarding Children and Child Protection Policy**. If a criminal act may have been committed, the manager will contact the police.

***Making a complaint to Ofsted***

Any parent or carer can submit a complaint to Ofsted about Rocks and Pebbles at any time. Ofsted will consider and investigate all complaints. Ofsted's address is: Ofsted, Piccadilly Gate, Store Street, Manchester M1 2WD

Telephone: 0300 123 1231 (general enquiries)  
0300 123 4666 (complaints)