



## SPaCE Relationship Policy

### Specialist Education and Cohesive Education (SPaCE) Outreach and Tutoring Service for Children with SEND

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#### Introduction

At SPaCE, we are committed to promoting healthy, respectful, and positive relationships between staff, pupils, parents, and the wider community. We recognize that healthy relationships are key to emotional, social, and educational development. This policy aims to create an environment where everyone feels safe, valued, and supported. SPaCE adopts a trauma-informed approach to ensure that any past experiences of trauma or adversity are understood and addressed in a supportive way.

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#### 1. Legal Framework and Legislation

This policy is guided by the following legislation and guidance:

- **Children Act 1989** (England & Wales) – focuses on protecting children from harm and promoting their welfare.
  - **Children and Families Act 2014** – provides provisions for the care and education of children, especially those with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities).
  - **Equality Act 2010** – prohibits discrimination, harassment, and victimization in education settings, ensuring equality for all students.
  - **Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006** – ensures that staff working with children are vetted and appropriate for their roles.
  - **The SEND Code of Practice 2015** – provides guidance on supporting children and young people with SEND, ensuring that their social, emotional, and mental health needs are met.
  - **The Human Rights Act 1998** – ensures that everyone has the right to respect for private and family life, freedom of expression, and protection from discrimination.
  - **Trauma-Informed Care Guidelines** – ensures that services are provided in ways that are sensitive to the needs of individuals who have experienced trauma.
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#### 2. Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of the Relationship Policy at SPaCE is to:

- Promote healthy and respectful interactions between all members of the SPaCE community.
- Provide guidelines for staff on how to establish and maintain professional, compassionate relationships with children, parents, and other stakeholders.



- Encourage safe, supportive, and positive relationships that contribute to the overall well-being and development of children.
  - Ensure that SPaCE is a trauma-informed, inclusive environment where each child's individual needs are understood and respected.
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### 3. Guiding Principles for Healthy Relationships

At SPaCE, we promote the following core principles in all relationships:

- **Respect:** Every individual, whether child, parent, or staff member, is treated with dignity and respect. Personal boundaries, preferences, and individual needs are acknowledged and honoured.
  - **Safety:** We aim to create a physically and emotionally safe space for children to learn and grow. Our approach is trauma-informed, ensuring that past experiences of harm or neglect are considered in how we engage with and support students.
  - **Trust:** Building and maintaining trust is essential in all relationships. Our staff are expected to engage with children in a transparent, consistent, and supportive manner.
  - **Confidentiality:** Information shared by children, parents, or staff will be treated with the utmost confidentiality, in line with GDPR and safeguarding protocols.
  - **Equality and Inclusion:** SPaCE embraces diversity and is committed to providing an inclusive environment where all children, regardless of their background, abilities, or experiences, feel valued and supported.
  - **Collaboration:** We encourage strong collaboration between parents, staff, and external agencies to support the best interests of each child.
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### 4. Trauma-Informed Approach

SPaCE is committed to being a trauma-informed provision. This means that we:

- **Recognize the impact of trauma:** Many children may have experienced trauma or adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), which can impact their emotional regulation, social interactions, and learning. Staff are trained to recognize signs of trauma and to respond appropriately.
- **Focus on safety and trust:** We ensure that children feel physically and emotionally safe in our provision, and that staff are approachable, consistent, and dependable in their interactions.
- **Empower children:** SPaCE provides children with a sense of control over their own lives by offering choices where appropriate, and encouraging autonomy in a safe and supported environment.
- **Avoid re-traumatization:** All interactions are conducted in a way that minimizes the risk of re-traumatizing children. This includes being mindful of triggers and ensuring children's boundaries are respected.



- **Build resilience:** Through nurturing relationships and supportive care, we help children build emotional resilience, coping mechanisms, and a sense of self-worth.
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## 5. Professional Boundaries and Staff Conduct

- **Professional Relationships:** All relationships between staff and children must remain professional at all times. Staff should never enter into personal or inappropriate relationships with children under any circumstances.
  - **Appropriate Touch:** Staff should be mindful of physical boundaries and should avoid any physical contact unless it is necessary for the child's care or safety (e.g., administering first aid). Staff should always respect a child's preferences regarding touch.
  - **Clear Communication:** Staff should communicate with children in a clear, respectful, and age-appropriate manner. This includes providing information in ways that are accessible to children with SEND.
  - **Record Keeping:** All interactions with children, especially in cases where physical or emotional support is provided, should be appropriately documented in accordance with SPaCE's safeguarding and record-keeping policies.
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## 6. Supporting Positive Relationships Between Children

- **Promote Respectful Peer Relationships:** We encourage students to respect one another, celebrate diversity, and engage in positive peer relationships. We educate students on how to resolve conflicts peacefully and promote healthy communication.
  - **Anti-Bullying:** SPaCE has a strict anti-bullying policy, ensuring that children are protected from bullying and harassment. Staff actively monitor interactions and intervene promptly if any signs of bullying are detected.
  - **Conflict Resolution:** We support children in developing conflict resolution skills, focusing on building empathy, understanding, and respectful communication. When conflicts arise, we work with all involved to understand the issue and guide them toward a positive resolution.
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## 7. Parent/Carer Involvement

SPaCE values strong partnerships with parents and carers. Open, transparent communication is key to understanding and supporting the needs of each child. Parent/carers involvement is encouraged through:

- **Regular Communication:** Regular updates regarding the child's progress, well-being, and any concerns will be communicated to parents or carers.



- **Partnership in Education:** We encourage parents to be actively involved in their child’s learning and emotional development, attending meetings, parent workshops, and engaging in collaborative decision-making processes.
- **Support for Parents:** We recognize that parents of children with SEND may also experience stress or challenges. SPaCE will work to provide additional support and signpost to external agencies where necessary.

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## 8. Implementation and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or as necessary to ensure its effectiveness and relevance. Feedback from staff, children, parents, and external agencies will be used to inform policy reviews.

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### Acknowledgement:

I confirm that I have read and understood the SPaCE Relationship Policy, and I agree to its implementation in supporting my child’s development in a safe, inclusive, and trauma-informed environment.

**Parent/Carer Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Staff Member Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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This policy is integral to creating a nurturing environment where all children at SPaCE can thrive. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this policy, please contact us at [admin@spacealg.co.uk](mailto:admin@spacealg.co.uk)

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Signed Dene Terry *DBTerry*

Signed Siobhan Bunce *Siobhan Bunce*

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