

Badger Club Policy 14 - Involving and Consulting Children

Our Club, and all its members of staff, are committed to the principle of involving and consulting children whenever decisions are made within the Club that affect them.

The Club believes that actively promoting the participation of children in decision-making processes is beneficial to children, staff and the Club as a whole.

The Club's commitment to involving and consulting children ensures that:

- A child's opinion is taken into account in anything that affects them.
- Children have information disseminated in a way that enables them to make choices and decisions.

For children, involvement and consultation helps them to develop new skills such as negotiating, sharing and understanding the perspectives of others. It helps them to understand how decisions are made, and recognises that their opinions are important.

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

All children will be listened to and consulted actively. This will take a number of forms, including:

- Asking questions and paying full attention to the child's response, listening to what they are saying verbally and observing body language and behaviour.
- Through play and creative expression.
- Suggestion box and questionnaires

Age, maturity and the type of decision being made will determine the extent and nature of children's involvement. However, the emphasis should always be strongly in favour of involving children.

Consultation and involvement will be regularly monitored and acted upon so that children are able to see that their input has led to visible outcomes. The Club and its staff will also be clear about what decisions children will be involved in and attempt to offer clear explanations if and when consultation and involvement is deemed inappropriate.

At the Club the children have the opportunity to participate and make decisions on a day-to-day basis, including, but not limited to:

- Choosing freely what type of play to engage in
- Choosing what snacks to eat
- Selecting new equipment for the club
- Using our resource library to select toys or activities that are not already set out
- Using our suggestion box to request new resources, activities or other changes
- Activity planning

This policy was adopted by: Long Furlong Badger Club

Date: 13/01/2026

To be reviewed: October 2028

Signed: Lucy Harvey / Chair and Trustee