



## **Juniper Hill School**

### **Root Relational Policy Summary**

This is a very brief summary of the school's root Relational Policy. The root Relational Policy is at the centre of our suite of behaviour policies.

The power of the positive relationships we build and nurture with our children, each other and our families is at the heart of our Relational Policy. The Juniper Team treat our children with unconditional positive regard, kindness, and respect; creating an environment where children feel safe, seen, and heard. Our motto and values—kindness, enjoyment, achievement, respect, community, independence, curiosity, courage, and creativity—guide our approach to building relationships. We recognise our children come with diverse backgrounds, shaped by their early childhood experiences. Some of our children will have suffered adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) that impact on their ability to trust adults and remain in a regulated state.

We use strategies, such as "Safety Tours" and "Safe Spaces" to help those who need additional emotional support. We connect with our children, learn their triggers and use strategies to calm their nervous systems when they become dysregulated.

We expect the Juniper Team to be wise with their words, to be gentle with their strength and strong with their gentleness. We expect the Juniper Team to be reflective, and aware of their own nervous systems.

PACE (Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity, Empathy) is at the centre of our relational approach. Dyadic Developmental Practice (DDP) forms part of this approach, offering children safe, nurturing relational experiences to build trust. The concept of Team Pupil involves a group of adults supporting an individual child's emotional and developmental needs, this is used for some of our children. The school uses differentiated discipline and consequences to address behaviour. We know the importance of connecting before correcting and the importance of relational repair after we have dealt with a behaviour issue. The Juniper Team focus on co-regulation and attunement to children's emotional states, ensuring a nurturing, safe and supportive school.

Effectiveness of our Relational Policy is measured through attendance, engagement, regulation, emotional well-being, and academic progress. The school uses various tools, like relationship circles and surveys, to assess how safe and connected students feel within the school environment.