



Felixstowe Opportunity Group

Felixstowe Academy Grounds, Maidstone Road

Felixstowe, IP11 9EF

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01394 286399

www.felixstoweopportunitygroup.co.uk

Felixstowe Opportunity Group, formally St Mary's Opportunity Group, currently provides two weekly play sessions for children from 0-5 years during term time, who have a range of additional needs. These needs can be diagnosed, undiagnosed and or parental concerns. We also provide support for the whole family, and during school holidays, older siblings are welcome to attend. We also run a weekly session for families with twins, and Mencap use the building as a base for their Saturday group.

Our setting provides -

- Soft Play Area
- Outside Playroom
- Fully Enclosed Garden with Outdoor Play Equipment
- Sensory Room
- Free Flow Play
- Adult Led Activities
- Parent respite for part of the session in our onsite parent lounge

As a registered charity, we rely on fundraising and support from the local community. The Felixstowe Rotary Club and Felixstowe Lions have been a tremendous support to us over the last year, providing us with an outdoor playroom and assisting us with enhancements to our enclosed garden area. In the autumn we were overwhelmed with support from Volkar-Fitzpatrick, the company working on the local railway, who kindly renovated our front garden and provided us with a very generous donation to enable us to purchase new resources for the outdoor playroom.

In October 2018, a number of key committee members retired, and the new committee have been working hard to relaunch the group ahead of its 30 year anniversary in 2020. Our new Co-Chairs both have experience of teaching in schools and child care settings, supporting children with a wide variety of needs. Two of our new committee members have expertise in publishing and website building, and have rebranded our logo.



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The grant we received from Felixstowe Town Council has funded training for new members of staff as part of their induction.

All staff have completed-

- First Aid
- Food Hygiene Level Two
- Safeguarding Training
- Updated enhanced DBS certificate in Child Workforce.

In addition, all committee members have had a new DBS certificate issued in Child Workforce. This will aid future plans to carry out home visits for families new to our service. One member of the committee also attended the First Aid course via the funding.

We have some funds remaining from the grant to carry forwards with a view to specific staff training around ASD and play in the Early Years.

Key Priorities for 2019-2020

- Reach out to more families in the local area to enable them to access our service during term time.
- Continue to fundraise with help and support from the local community.