

Parents as partners policy

We want children to feel safe and happy in the absence of their parents, to recognise other adults as a source of authority, help and friendship and to be able to share with their parents afterwards the new learning experiences enjoyed in the nursery. We also want parents to feel welcome and involved from the beginning. In order to accomplish this we aim to create a partnership with parents in the following ways:

- By creating opportunities for the exchange of important information.
- By ensuring unlimited opportunities for parents to inform the nursery about their children's current achievements and interests.
- By encouraging parents to visit the nursery with their children at least three to four weeks before admission is planned.
- By introducing flexible admission procedures, if appropriate, to meet the needs of individual families and children.
- By giving parents the opportunity to express their views and opinions on the service we provide by encouraging open relationships with the management team and through the completion of regular questionnaires.
- By making clear to families from the outset that they will be welcomed and supported in the nursery for as long as it takes to settle their child.
- By reassuring parents whose children seem to be taking a little bit longer to settle into the nursery.

Children cannot play or learn successfully if they are anxious and unhappy. Our settling procedures aim to help parents and children to feel comfortable in the nursery and to ensure that children can benefit from what the nursery has to offer, feeling confident that their parents will return at the end of the session/day.

Parents are the first educators of their young children and the aim of the nursery is to support parents in their essential role. We will endeavour to:

- Involve parents in shared record keeping about their own child, both formally and informally, ensuring that parents have access to all written records on their own child / children.
- Ensure that parents are given information on a regular basis about their child's / children's progress (written reports every 4 months) and have an opportunity to discuss it with staff.
- Ensure that all parents have opportunities to contribute from their own skills, knowledge and interests to the activities run in the nursery.
- Ensure that all new parents are aware of the nursery's systems and policies.
- Encourage parents to be involved in specific activities that we may occasionally ask to be carried out at home and information brought back to the nursery. We do not expect this very often as we are fully aware that life gets very busy.
- Welcome the contributions of parents, whatever form these may take.

- Make known to all parents the systems for registering queries, complaints or suggestions
- Provide opportunities for parents to learn about the nursery curriculum and about young children's learning, in nursery and at home.

When parents collect their child a member of staff will explain all aspects of the child's day at nursery so the parents have an insight to what their child's day has entailed.

We aim to acknowledge all the festivals which are celebrated in our area and/or by the families involved in the nursery.

Without indoctrination of any specific faith, children will be made aware of the festivals which are being celebrated by their own families or others, and will be introduced where appropriate to the stories behind these festivals.

Before introducing a festival with which the adults in the nursery are not themselves familiar, appropriate advice will be sought from parents and other people who are familiar with that festival.

Children will become familiar with and enjoy taking part in a range of festivals, together with the stories, celebrations and special food and clothing they involve, as part of the diversity of life.

This policy was checked, reviewed and updated in **August 2012**.

_____ Nursery Manager