



## Working in Partnership with Parents

### Policy Statement

We believe that parents are the first and lifelong educators of their children and that the best outcomes for children can be met when we work in partnership with parents. Part of our ethos is that parents are the experts on their children.

Some parents are less well represented in early years settings; these include fathers, parents who live apart from their children but who still play a part in their lives as well as working parents. We ensure all parents are included.

We work hard to reach those parents that are harder to reach, whether through work commitments, family break up etc. For example, we will give them access to their child's online Learning Journal, where they can leave comments.

When we refer to 'parents' we mean both mothers and fathers, including those in same sex relationships; these include birth parents, step-parents, adoptive parents, parents who do not live with their children, but have contact with them and foster parents.

'Parental responsibility' is all the rights, duties, powers and responsibilities and authority which by law, a parent of a child has in relation to the child and his property.

### Procedures

**We make the following information available to parents:**

- How we deliver the EYFS (2014) and EYFS Guide for Parents.
- Range of activities and experiences for children.
- Family Online Learning Journals provide Parents with direct access to their child's assessments and developmental progress. Parents can also add their own contributions to these.
- How we support children with special educational needs via our policy 'Supporting Children with Special Educational Needs' and our Local Offer for children with SEND.
- General termly information via newsletters.
- Details of all our policies – a full list of our policies is available on our website.
- Full details of all staff, including Key Person and Committee Members.
- Nursery contact details.
- Our duty of care to safeguard children and our responsibilities under the Prevent Duty.

*What do we do?*

**Our first point of contact is when we give prospective parents a tour of our setting, where we take time to answer questions and provide general information.**

- We have means to ensure all parents are included – that may mean we have different strategies for involving fathers or parents who work or live apart from their children.
- We consult with all parents to find out what works best for them.
- The Key Person leads the settling in process on a child's first day and thus starts a parental partnership.
- We inform all parents about how the setting is run and its policies through access to written information and through regular informal communication. We check to ensure parents understand the information that is given to them.
- Information about a child and his or her family is kept confidential within our setting. We provide you with a Privacy Policy that details how and why we process your personal information. The exception to this is where there is cause to believe that a child may be suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm, or where there are concerns regarding child's development that need to be shared with another agency. We will seek parental permission unless there are reasons not to in order to protect the safety of the child. Reference is made to our Information Sharing Policy on seeking consent for disclosure.
- We seek specific parental consent to administer medication, take a child for emergency treatment, take a child on an outing and take photographs for the purposes of record keeping.
- We encourage and support parents to play an active part in the governance and management of the setting by advertising to all parents any vacancies on our Committee.
- We inform all parents on a regular basis about their children's progress via home contact books, informal chats and the Family online Learning Journals.
- We provide opportunities for parents to contribute their own skills, knowledge and interests to the activities of the setting as well as how to support their children at home.
- We inform parents about our events, workshops and training.
- We individually consult with parents about the times of meetings to avoid excluding anyone.
- We provide information about opportunities to be involved with us in ways that are accessible to parents with basic skills needs, or those for whom English is an additional language.
- We hold meetings in venues that are accessible and appropriate for all.
- We welcome all contributions from parents.
- We inform all parents of the systems for registering queries, complaints or suggestions and check to ensure these are understood. All parents have access to our written complaints procedure.
- All parents have access to our written **Missing Child** and **Uncollected Child** policies.
- We organise fundraising events which are a great way to mix with parents informally.

This Policy was reviewed by	Gemma Finnegan
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This Policy was adopted by	Staff and St Mary's Nursery Committee
Signatory (Committee Chairperson)	Samuel Pointer
Date	September 2018
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