Parental Involvement Policy

Policy Statement

We believe that children benefit most from Early Years education and care when parents and settings work together in partnership.

Our aim is to support parents as their children's first and most important educators by involving them in their children's education and in the full life of the setting. We also aim to support parents in their own continuing education and personal development.

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. In carrying out the following procedures, we will ensure all parents are included.

We refer to 'parents' as anyone with parental responsibility. This may be both natural or birth parents, including same sex parents, step-parents and parents who do not live with their children, but have contact with them and play a part in their lives. 'Parents' also includes carers with parental responsibility as well as 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 keep parents informed through: daily conversations with staff; open door policy; newsletters; the school's website; open evenings, key worker systems; letters and home stories
- We inform parents about relevant conferences, workshops and training available
- We inform parents about the range of activities available for their child/ children
- We have a means to ensure all parents are included
- We consult with all parents to find out what works best for them
- We ensure ongoing dialogue with parents to improve our knowledge of the needs of their children and to support their families
- 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
- We inform all parents on a regular basis about their children's progress
- We involve parents in the shared record keeping about their children - either formally or informally - and ensure parents have access to their children's written developmental records upon request

- We provide opportunities for parents to contribute their own skills, knowledge and interests to the activities of the setting
- We welcome the contributions of parents, in whatever form these may take
- 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
- We provide opportunities for parents to learn about the curriculum offered in the setting and about young children's learning, in the setting and at home

In compliance with the Welfare Requirements, the following documentation is in place:

- Admissions policy.
- Complaints procedure.
- Record of complaints.
- Developmental records of children.

Policy: September 2025

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