

## Parents as Partners Policy

### INTRODUCTION

The term 'parents' is employed throughout this policy to refer to parents, guardians, carers or others in 'loco parentis'. Central to our policy is the belief that, at its most effective, the education of young children is a collaborative enterprise involving carers, parents and the children themselves. Parents know a great deal about their children; they have particular insights about their strengths, skills, interests, preferences, aspirations, anxieties and difficulties. Accordingly, the importance of meaningful communications between teachers and parents, is crucial. Therefore, the whole Nursery is committed to establishing and maintaining an effective working relationship between the Nursery and home. There are two basic concepts that are vital to success of this relationship, i.e.

- parents must be well aware as to the high value that the Nursery places upon their contribution.
- parents must be well aware of, and understand our educational practice and philosophy.

Parental involvement and interest is at its height when parents are dealing with the specific needs of their own child within the nursery context - although parents are always encouraged to contribute to the development of the broader nursery community.

### AIMS

1. ***To develop good communication with parents and to fully inform them about what is happening in the Nursery by:***
  - making letters 'user friendly', useful and informative.
  - sending regular newsletters containing information such as dates and events or details of class topics, suggestions for home activities, rhymes and songs.
  - having a parent board providing relevant information for parents.
  - organising workshops with the aim of informing parents about the work the children cover in the Nursery and suggesting ways they can help and become involved.
  - offering individual visits and holding a meeting for all parents whose children are coming into the Nursery - during these visits good use is made of the Nursery's prospectus
  - having parents events, when parents are free to look round the Nursery and to have 'hands on' learning experiences, e.g. parents /grandparents days.
  - encouraging parents to contribute to an ongoing dialogue with the class teacher through daily contact
  - reporting clearly to parents about their child's progress.
  - providing opportunities for parents to communicate with the Governing Body through the Parent Governors.
  - offering staff INSET opportunities during which they can develop confidence and expertise in communication and listening skills and an understanding of other people's roles and attitudes.
  - using our website and the inclusion/diversity service to make nursery information available in relevant languages.
  - providing parent workshops to enable further development of skills, confidence and develop friendships and contacts between parents.

- Providing relevant information, e.g. an up to date school prospectus which provides a wealth of relevant information and up to date policies, e.g. positive behaviour policy, safe guarding summary for parents and anti-bullying policy.
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2. ***To make good use of parents' expertise and willingness to enhance their own child's and other children's learning by making them feel welcome and by actively involving them in the general life of the Nursery,*** e.g. we encourage parents to:
    - work contribute to nursery experiences where relevant and possible, e.g. our people who help us themes, (visit of a parent who is a nurse, fire fighter etc) or myself themes, (parent with a new baby may explain about looking after a new baby/ bath or feed baby etc.)
    - attend relevant festivals, performances, concerts and celebrations, e.g. every year the Nursery has:
      - attend literacy / numeracy /other curriculum based workshops
      - become involved in nursery/community projects such as gardening/maintaining or helping with practical tasks
      - become involved in the 'book sharing' time.
      - attend parent/teacher meetings.
      - support fundraising events.
    - use opportunities presented when leaving or picking up their child to have informal discussions with class teachers.
  3. ***To further develop the roles of the Nursery's parent governors.***
    - the Nursery values the role and work of the parent governors. Their contributions are asked for and considered at all appropriate opportunities.
  4. ***To foster an atmosphere where parents feel that all staff are accessible for discussion of:***
    - i. nursery issues including the Curriculum;
    - ii. family matters;
    - iii. individual child's progress.
  5. ***To allow parents to fully exercise their rights to access and information.***

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