

Partnership

4.3 Parental involvement

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.

When we refer to 'parents' we mean both mothers and fathers; these include both natural or birth parents as well as 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 same sex parents as well as foster parents.

The setting has a parent management committee. All parents are invited to attend the *AGM* and join the committee. The committee host the new parents evening and provide information on how the committee runs, it's involvement and impact on the nursery.

Procedures

- We invite all new parents to an open evening before their child starts nursery.
- 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, our website, parents newsletters and through regular informal communication.
- We formally seek parental views with an annual questionnaire. Daily dialogue also enables us to reflect and evaluate our practice.

- Parents have access to 'Tapestry' an online journal of their child at nursery. They are encouraged to add in their own observations and comments.
- We provide opportunities for parents to contribute their own skills, knowledge and interests to the activities of the setting.
- We inform parents about relevant conferences, workshops and training.
- We hold meetings in venues that are accessible and appropriate.
- 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.
All parents have access to our written complaints' procedure.

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