

## EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS POLICY

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### Policy statement

We believe that children benefit most from Early Years education and care when parents and staff 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 Nursery and School. Some parents are less well represented in early years settings; we will ensure all parents are included.

For the purposes of this policy statement, in accordance with Section 576 of the Education Act 1996, a "parent" is defined as:

- All natural (biological) parents, whether they are married or not;
- Any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person;
- Any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person.

### Procedures

- We will endeavour to make sure all parents are included.
- We consult with all parents to find out what works best for them.
- Before a child starts Nursery or School we receive background information about them through meetings with parents and written forms. We also hold transition evenings to explain and promote seamless transition from one room to another.
- 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 we run our Early Years and our policies through access to written information and through regular informal communication.
- We inform all parents about their children's progress both on an informal basis at parents' evenings, and in formal end of year reports.
- We involve parents in the shared record keeping about their children - either formally or informally - and ensure parents have access to their children's Learning Journey or Profile.
- We encourage parents to contribute their own skills, knowledge and interests to the activities of the setting by sharing their own home or cultural experiences.
- We inform parents about relevant workshops and training.
- We time our meetings with parents to avoid excluding anyone.
- We take into account parents for whom English is an additional language and ensure they receive appropriate information.

- We hold meetings in venues that are accessible as far as possible.
- We welcome the contributions of parents, in whatever form these may take.
- We welcome parents to events such as Sports days, Concerts and Productions.
- We inform all parents of the systems for registering queries and complaints and check to ensure these are understood.
- We make available details about how to contact Ofsted and the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI), if they believe we are not meeting the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements.
- All parents are able to access our written complaints procedure.
- We seek parents' views through regular liaison and the Happiness Survey.
- 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.
- We encourage parents to become 'form reps' for their child's room or class to help us with special events and with sharing information.
- All parents are members of the Hazelwood Parents Association (HPA) and are invited to participate in all the events organised by the HPA.
- We welcome parent volunteers to the HPA committee.