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Working in partnership with parents and other agencies procedures

**Working in partnership with parents/carers and other agencies**

We believe that families are central in all services we provide for young children. They are involved in all aspects of their child’s care, their views are actively sought, and they are actively involved in the running of the setting in various ways.

We work in partnership with local and national agencies to promote the well-being of all children.

A committee of volunteers run the pre-school under the Pre-School Learning Alliance Pre-School Constitution. The Supervisor and Chair liaise frequently.

The pre-school follows ‘In the Moment Planning’. The staff follow the child’s lead and work to identify teachable moments. We plan, teach, and assess in the moment.

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum.

# Families

* Parents/carers are provided with written information about the setting, including the setting’s safeguarding actions and responsibilities under the Prevent Duty
* Parents/carers are made to feel welcome in the setting; they are greeted appropriately.
* Every effort is made to accommodate parents/carers who have a disability or impairment.
* The expectations we make on parents/carers are made clear at the point of registration.
* There is a clear expectation that parents/carers will participate in settling their child at the commencement of a place at the pre-school.
* There is sufficient opportunity for parents/carers to share necessary information with staff and this is recorded and stored to protect confidentiality.
* Key persons support parents/carers in their role as the child’s first and most enduring educators.
* Key persons regularly meet with parents/carers to discuss their child’s learning and development and to share concerns if they arise.
* Key persons work with parents/carers to carry out an agreed plan to support a child’s special educational needs.
* Key persons work with parents/carers to carry out any agreed tasks where a child protection plan is in place.
* According to the nature of the setting, there is provision for families to be involved in activities that promote their own learning and well-being.
* Parents/carers are involved in the social and cultural life of the setting and actively contribute.
* As far as possible the service is provided in a flexible way to meet the needs of parents/carers without compromising the needs of children.
* Parents/carers are involved in regular assessment of their child’s progress, including the progress check at age two.
* Parents will receive a summary report in the Autumn and Summer terms following their child’s focus week. SEN children will receive reports from other agencies.
* Parents are invited to meet with their child’s key person within a few weeks of their child starting at the setting so they can ask any questions that they may have and seek reassurance.
* There are effective means for communicating with parents/carers on all relevant matters and Complaints procedure for parents/carers and service users is referred to when necessary.
* Information about a child and their family is kept confidential within the setting. 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 their child’s development that need to be shared with another agency. Parental permission will be sought unless there are reasons not to, to protect the safety of the child.
* Parental consent is sought to administer medication, take a child for emergency treatment, take a child on an outing and take photographs for the purposes of record keeping.
* Parents/carers’ views are sought regarding changes in the delivery of the service
* Parents/carers are actively encouraged to participate in decision making processes via the pre-school committee.
* There are opportunities for parents/carers to take active roles in supporting their child’s learning in the setting: informally through helping out or activities with their child, or through structured projects engaging parents/carers and staff in their child’s learning.

# Agencies

* We work in partnership or in tandem with local and national agencies to promote the wellbeing of children.
* Procedures are in place for sharing of information about children and families with other agencies, as set out in procedures Confidentiality, recording and sharing information.
* Information shared by other agencies (third party information) is also kept in confidence and not shared without consent from that agency.
* When working in partnership with staff from other agencies, individuals are made to feel welcome in the setting and professional roles are respected.
* Staff follow the protocols for working with agencies, for example on child protection.
* Staff from other agencies do not have unsupervised access to the child they are visiting in the setting.
* Staff do not casually share information or seek informal advice about any named child/family.
* We consult with and signpost to local and national agencies who offer a wealth of advice and information promoting staff understanding of issues facing them in their work and who can provide support and information for families. For example, ethnic/cultural organisations, drug/alcohol agencies, welfare rights advisors or organisations promoting childcare and early education, or adult education.

**Schools**

* Settings work in partnership with schools to assist children’s transition and share information as per procedure Transfer of records.
* The setting supervisor actively seeks to forge partnership with local schools with the aim of sharing best practice and creating a consistent approach.