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**Parental Involvement Policy**

**Aims:**

We believe that children benefit most from education and care when parents and schools, or early years 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 schools and 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.

When we refer to ‘parents’ we mean both mothers and fathers; these include both adoptive 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’ of course also includes same sex parents 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.* (For a full explanation of who has parental responsibility go to: https://www.gov.uk/parental-rights-responsibilities/what-is-parental-responsibility)

**Procedures:**

* We will ensure all parents are included – that may mean we may have different strategies for involving fathers or parents who work or live apart from their children.
* We consult with all parents about their child’s education, daily routines, likes and dislikes, managing behaviour etc. in order to get to know the child fully.
* We ensure ongoing dialogue with parents to improve our knowledge of the needs of their children and to support their families, through discussions before and after school, telephone and email correspondence, parents evenings and meetings.
* We inform all parents about how the school 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.
* We offer home visits.
* We communicate with parents through a variety of methods including letters, discussions, meetings, the website, notice boards, emails, and our Parent Group on Facebook.
* We inform parents about relevant conferences, workshops and training.
* We consult with parents about the times of meetings to avoid excluding anyone.
* We hold meetings in venues that are accessible and appropriate for all.
* We provide information about opportunities to be involved in the school in ways that are accessible to parents with basic skills needs, or those for whom English is an additional language.
* 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 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.
* We expect parents to contribute some time to help the school to run efficiently e.g. by becoming a class rep, cleaning, joining a mandate group, coming to work days or helping at special events (See Contribution Agreement)
* We encourage and support parents to play an active part in the governance and management of the setting if they wish.
* We encourage and support parents to play in active role in their child’s learning.
* We provide opportunities for parents to contribute their own skills, knowledge and interests to the activities of the setting.

**Policy Agreed by Directors on: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Signed:**

**Review on:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**