

Garretts Green Nursery School

Parental Involvement Policy

Rationale

Garretts Green Nursery School places great value on the role of parents in school and in the education of their own children. We recognise that the impact of parental involvement can be seen in well-being, self-esteem and confidence, attitude to learning, educational attainment and standards of behaviour. Staff, therefore, seek to encourage parents to take an active role in the life of the Nursery through a range of activities, opportunities and experiences. We value parents' contributions to school life and listen to their views and suggestions. Teaching is a partnership between home and school.

Aims

- To develop secure professional relationships parents and carers;
- To provide a partnership between home and school, seeking to ensure that families feel welcome and valued;
- To extend parents' understanding of how we teach in Nursery;
- To encourage parents and carers to be involved in the children's learning;
- To encourage parents to support their child's learning at home;
- To enhance the learning experiences of all pupils;
- To ensure that maximum use is made of adults' skills to enrich learning opportunities.

Induction

In order to meet our aims we will engage parents from the earliest meeting through a carefully structured Induction process. (See Transition Policy) This will include Home Visits, an Induction Meeting in Nursery for parents and children, information about all aspects of the Nursery and staggered starting dates. Parents will also be involved in a short workshop on the second day whilst their children play.

This will be the start of a programme of planned events and opportunities for involvement throughout the academic year. (See Events Chart)

Communication

Parents will receive regular communication through letters and notes placed in the child's own drawer. There will also be a Newsletter each half term. Any additional notices will be displayed on the door or window in a prominent position.

Parents will also receive text messages to their mobile phones to inform them of unexpected events such as school closures due to snow. Texts will also be sent as reminders, for example, for Forest School or other events. We ask parents to ensure that details of telephone contact numbers are up-dated regularly.

Information about our Nursery can be found on our website at

Events

Nursery organises a number of celebrations for religious festivals or special days. We encourage parents to join us for Mehndi hand painting and other activities.

Parents are also invited to accompany their child on trips and visits.

Support for Learning

Policies that support learning will be shared with parents. These include Behaviour Policy, Parental Involvement Policy and Attendance Policy.

A number of home tasks are suggested that support learning across all areas of development. These tend to be fun activities and may be long-term ‘projects’, such as making an Easter Garden.

Parents are also offered suggestions about how they may help their child’s learning at home, such as INSPIRE Workshops, Fun to Learn and other activities.

At the start of the year, parents are asked to complete a Parents’ Page for their child’s Learning Journey. The Learning Journeys are then shared with parents at Parents Consultations during the Autumn and Spring Terms. Staff are also willing to discuss a child’s learning at any point during the year should parents request this or if the staff have any information or concerns to share. Parents bring their child directly into Nursery and collect them from the classroom at the end of the sessions and staff are happy to talk to parents informally at this time.

At the end of the year a Transfer Document will be sent home to parents and an opportunity to discuss this is available to all parents, should they request this.

Celebrating success

Children will be given ‘Wow! Cards’ to celebrate small successes in their learning. A copy will be put in the child’s drawer.

‘Star of the Week’ is also a celebration of success and a postcard is posted to the home address.

Attendance is also celebrated with a certificate for excellent 100% attendance and for good attendance (93%)

Additional Learning Needs and Medical Information

Staff will share any information from outside agencies with parents (such as Speech and Language Therapists’ reports). Any information regarding a child’s Special Educational Needs will be shared with outside agencies only if parental consent has been given.

We ask parents to inform staff of any medical information that is relevant to the child’s care in Nursery. This includes details of asthma or allergies.

Evaluation

Throughout the year we will ask parents to complete evaluations of the various events. These are analysed and any matters arising are addressed as required. We value parents’ comments and always try to act upon their suggestions or issues that are raised. Garretts Green Nursery School strives constantly to develop dialogue between home and school.

Organisation

Parents are asked to follow signing-in and safeguarding procedures on site.

Any parent wishing to volunteer to help in Nursery will be required to follow procedures for CRB checks.

Support for Parents

Staff are able to offer support for parents on a range of topics such as behaviour management, sleep, healthy eating, exercise, SEN, and general parenting advice. There are also a number of agencies who work in partnership with Nursery, including Children’s Centres. Staff signpost to appropriate professionals where required.

Programme of Events

The details of events shown here is a general guide only and are subject to alterations. Additional opportunities will be published throughout the year.

Term	Event	Home task
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Autumn: First Half Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Induction sessions-staggered intake • Induction meeting: Listening skills • INSPIRE Workshop: Early Phonics • Parents' Page for Learning Journeys • Parents' Consultations • Election of Parent Governors (Depending upon vacancies) 	Home task: Fun To Learn
Autumn: Second Half Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Divali Celebrations • Christmas INSPIRE Workshop • Christmas Party • Starlight Nativity • St. Giles' Church visit 	Home task: Make a winter or Christmas scene, eg: in a shoe box, a small tray, etc
Spring: First Half Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chinese New Year Party • INSPIRE Workshop: Mathematics • Mathematics resources sent home 	Home task: Cook a stir fry at home and tell us about it.
Spring: Second Half Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INSPIRE Workshop: Early Writing (mark-making) • Fun to Learn • Parents Consultations • Easter events 	Home task: Make an Easter tray garden and/or an Easter bonnet
Summer: First Half Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INSPIRE Workshop: Story-telling • Fathers' Story Week • Mum's Event • Induction: Home Visits for new Nursery intake 	Home task: Join the local Library and choose books to talk about in Nursery
Summer: Second Half Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INSPIRE Workshop: • Grandparents' Days • Trip to Sheldon Country Park • Transfer Documents sent home to parents 	Home task: Draw a picture and try to write your name

Signed by Chair of Governors:

Date:

Review: 2014