10.2 Parental involvement

Policy Statement

We believe that children benefit most from early years education and care when parents and Nursery Schools 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 School.

Some parents are less well represented in early years Nursery Schools; 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 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.

'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*

Procedures

- We have a means to ensure all parents are included – that may mean we have different strategies for involving fathers or parents who work or live apart from their children.
- We consult with all parents to find out what works best for them.
- 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 Nursery 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 regularly talk to parents 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.
- Information about a child and his or her family is kept confidential within the setting. We provide parents with our Privacy Notice which explains how and why we process personal information
- We provide opportunities for parents to contribute their own skills, knowledge and interests to the activities of the Nursery School.
- We inform parents about relevant conferences, workshops and training.
- We consult with parents about the times of meetings to avoid excluding anyone.
- We provide information about opportunities to be involved in the Nursery School in ways that are accessible to parents with basic skills needs, or those for whom English is an additional language.
- We hold meetings in venues that are accessible and appropriate for all.

- 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 written complaints procedure.
- We provide opportunities for parents to learn about the curriculum offered in the Nursery School and about young children's learning, in the Nursery School and at home.

In compliance with the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements, the following documentation is in place:

- Admissions policy.
- Complaints procedure.
- Record of complaints.
- Developmental records of children.

Other useful PLA publications

- Complaint Investigation Record (2015)
- Engaging Mothers and Fathers (2010)
- Safeguarding children (2013)
- CIF Summary Record (2016)
- Safeguarding through effective supervision (2013)
- Developing effective teamwork (2010)

Change log		
This policy was changed on	**Signed on behalf of the nursery**	**Reason for change**
7/08/2020	Veronica van Ingen	Adoption of policy
27/10/2021	Veronica van Ingen	No changes, part of annual review
28/01/2026	Veronica van Ingen	No changes