



Parent Partnership Policy

Statement of Intent

At Little Acorns Pre-School we believe that working in partnership with parents is key to developing secure relationships with the children. Little Acorns staff believe that parents, carers and family members are the child's primary educators, and the early experiences children have at home are the foundation of their learning journey.

Staff at Little Acorns welcome all contributions from families and encourage parents and carers to share information about their children through regular formal and informal meetings.

We recognise that each of our families are different and that it is important we provide a range of ways in which parents, carers and family members can share information about their children.

Procedure

Parents' and carers' first opportunity for information sharing is their initial visit to the Pre-School and/or their settling in session. Parents and carers will always be welcomed and staff will endeavour to identify the most effective way of communicating and sharing information based on initial discussions and observations

Throughout their child's time at Pre-School all parents and carers are offered multiple opportunities to work together with staff to share information and develop professional relationships; in the belief that this will promote the child's learning and development.

Some of the opportunities for partnership working include:

Tapestry – online learning journey, accessed by staff and families to record children's development

Newsletters – sent out each month to inform parents of current activities and relevant information

Social Media – short updates and reminders are put onto Facebook

Parents Evening – an annual event for parents/carers in to speak to staff about their child's development and discuss any concerns

Parents' sessions – parents and families are invited in to celebrate events throughout the year. Some are offered as a learning session for parents/carers



Trips / parent volunteers – parents and families are encouraged to take part in Pre-School trips, and are welcomed into the Pre-School if they have any skills or interests that would enrich the children's learning experiences

Informal discussions – at any point parents/carers are welcome to speak to a member of staff about their child. This may be at drop off or collection.

Formal one to one meetings with key worker - parents may prefer to make an appointment for a more in-depth, confidential discussion.

Parent feedback questionnaires – throughout the year parents/carers may be asked to complete a questionnaire to provide feedback to staff and the committee about specific issues, or general thoughts and feelings about their child's time at Pre-School

Parents drop in week – an opportunity for parents to drop in to speak to their child's key person if they wish to discuss anything.

All About Me form – parents and carers will have the opportunity to fill out the All About Me form to share information about their child's interests and early experiences to inform staff planning and support early relationships.

Initial Assessment - the key person will complete an initial assessment to identify some initial interests and stages of development. This can be discussed with parents should any concerns arise.

At Little Acorns we are constantly striving to develop communication and engagement with families. Staff are always open to discussion with colleagues, parents, families and other professionals to support their professional development. Training needs may be highlighted and wherever possible suitable training and development opportunities are offered.

Further information and support may be required when working with families with specific needs. Special considerations may be required when working with families who have additional needs, such as:

English as an additional language

Special Educational needs

Domestic violence

Child Protection / Early Help

Mental health needs



Multiple siblings

Periods of change and unrest

Challenging behaviour

Disengagement

Moving to a new setting

The final stage of working closely with parents is equally as important as the first. Supporting families through a transition to school or a new setting is vital. Often children and families have been at Little Acorns since their child was two, and staff develop strong links with families. During times of change, support from familiar professionals can be vital to increasing the confidence of parents/carers.

Staff at Little Acorns will discuss options and applications with parents, and signpost support agencies when necessary.

Children are supported when visiting their new setting / school with their key person and staff make themselves available to meet parents and families at open days and induction visits by working closely with Our Lady and St Oswald's Primary School. Children moving to different schools will be offered the same support, and staff at Little Acorns work with all new settings to ensure a seamless transition.

Parent Partnership during Covid-19 provision

Little Acorns Pre-school continue to place parent partnership as a priority and will endeavour to establish strong links of communication with all parents/carers. This is especially important whilst parents/carers are not allowed entry into the Pre-School building at drop off and collection times.

During this unusual time, it is essential that staff continue to reach out to parents/carers and families to offer support and guidance. Whilst not all families may need or choose to engage in communication with staff, there will be regular communication opportunities between families and their child's key person. This will take place through regular 'check in' phone calls, key person updates and activity suggestions on Tapestry, social media interaction and activity packs being hand delivered to all children.

Little Acorns Pre-School understand the stress and pressure being placed on all families at this time, and for some this may be more of a struggle. Staff will continue to follow the Pre-School safeguarding policy (including during times where they may be working at home) and will be able to contact the Safeguarding lead or deputy at



any stage to discuss concerns they have or those that may have been raised by parents/carers.

Core group meetings and Child Protection conferences will continue to take place virtually. Contact with social services or the SSCP will also continue where necessary.

Key persons will continue to update Tapestry regularly for all children. In addition to this, communication (where not personal/confidential) will continue on social media.

The Little Acorns website will continue to be updated with any relevant documents.

We recognise that some families choose not to or have no access to the information we publish online. To support these families Little Acorns will send specific information via text or telephone call while we continue to restrict paperwork and physical letters being sent home with children. There will be an overview of Pre-School news provided on a board outside of the door, with general reminders being displayed on posters outside the building.

Prior to children returning/starting Pre-School a letter was delivered to every family at home to ask for parents to complete a 'Since you saw me last' document to update staff on their key children's developments, or any concerns parents/carers may have. This will be used as a prompt for initial planning when children return.

Parents/carers are always encouraged to email or phone the Pre-School if they would like to speak to staff. Parent/carer consultations evenings will be replaced with catch up phone calls until it is safe to invite families back into Pre-School.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of Little Acorns @ Our Lady & St Oswald's Pre-School held on (date).....

Signed on behalf of management committee.....

Role of signatory.....

To be reviewed.....