

# **PARENTAL PARTNERSHIP POLICY**

Parents are children's first and most enduring educators. When parents and practitioners work together in early years' settings, the results have a positive impact on the child's development and learning.

Parents/carers should be made to feel welcome and valued regardless of colour, race, gender, religion, disability, medical condition or background.

At this school partnership with parents/carers develops over time but can be seen under the following four broad headings: -

- Initial contact with Willow.
- Settling in at Willow.
- Working together at Willow.
- Parental support and participation at Willow.

The co-ordinator for parental partnership is **Ms Kara Gaffney**.

**This policy was reviewed in: Spring 2024**

**Next review: Spring 2026**

## **Initial contact with parents/carers.**

### Guidelines

To maintain this policy the staff should:-

- 1) Ensure that parents/carers are made to feel welcome whether the first contact is by phone, letter or by calling in at the school.
- 2) Ensure that parents/carers are welcome to visit with their child at any time once a place has been offered. We would suggest that parents phone in advance to let us know to expect them.
- 3) Ensure there is a member of staff available to show parents/carers round on their initial visit.
- 4) Plan and participate in events such as Family days, Christmas party and Christmas events.

## **Settling in at Willow**

## Guidelines

To maintain this policy the staff should:-

- 1) Plan and support “new parents” meetings - these provide an opportunity for parents and staff to meet together to share information and to begin to establish working relationships.
- 2) Ensure the “new parents” pack is up to date. This is usually handed out at the new parents meeting (or it can be collected before) and aims to give all the basic information a parent/carer may need to know.
- 3) Plan for a “staggered intake” (by agreed dates) with parent/carer staying for the first session and, by negotiation, as many sessions as is in the child’s best interest. This gives time to talk individually, explain routines again, receive information about the child (new starter form) and encourage parents/carers to get involved in the life of the school.
- 4) Encourage parents/carers who feel concern after leaving their child to phone in for reassurance.

## Working together at Willow

### Guidelines

To maintain this policy the staff should:-

- 1) Always ensure that parents receive the “new parent” pack.
- 2) Always ensure a member of staff is at hand to welcome parents/carers/ children at the beginning and end of each session.
- 3) Ensure weekly newsletters are sent via Email and posted on the school website.
- 4) Encourage parents to freely use the school’s lending library with their children.
- 5) Use the children’s individual folders to send home other information, e g minor accident letters.
- 6) Share information informally with parents/carers.
- 7) Encourage parents/carers to help and/or get involved in the life of the school.
- 8) Issue a questionnaire to parents once the child has settled in, suggesting ways that parents can become involved in the life of the school and asking for volunteers.
- 9) Provide information in a range of ways on specific topics, e.g. the term’s theme, school lunches.
- 10) Use informative displays to not only support the curriculum but also to enable parents to see the

children's work and the work of the school.

- 11) Support parents consultation meetings to discuss children's progress.
- 12) Be willing to share children's records at other times, either informally or by mutual agreement.
- 13) Issue questionnaires to parents at appropriate times during the school year, asking for feedback on the work of the school. The results will be discussed with staff and governors and acted upon, as necessary.

## **Parental support and participation at Willow**

### **Guidelines**

To maintain this policy the staff should:-

- 1) Work with parents/carers to involve them in as many ways as practicable in their own child's education.
- 2) Encourage parents/carers to support the school.
- 3) Give confidence to parents/carers to participate in the school.
- 4) To support this, the "New Parents Pack" provides advice and guidelines for helping in school and lists resources the school can use.
- 5) Parents/carers can help in the school as frequently or as occasionally as they would like.
- 6) A parent/carer may have a particular resource/expertise/ ability that the school may ask them to share with the children and with us on occasions.
- 7) Parents/carers can help "at home" e.g. help create resources with cutting out and colouring in.