



Charters Ancaster Nursery and Forest School



Parental Involvement

PARENT COMMUNICATION AND INVOLVEMENT POLICY

Reviewed By: Nursery Manager

Date approved by Directors: December 2019 Signature: _____

Date for Review: December 2020

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1. INTRODUCTION

The UK Government's Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework which is based on up to date research on the best ways to help children achieve their potential states that -

'Good parenting and high-quality early learning together provide the foundation children need to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up.'

The EYFS therefore *'seeks to provide partnership working between practitioners and with parents and /or carers.'*

'Four guiding principles which should shape early years settings are:-

- *Every child is a unique child, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident, and self-assured.*
- *Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships.*
- *Children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and **there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers.***
- *Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates.*

At Charters Ancaster Nursery and Forest School we understand that parents are their children's most important educators and that we can learn from listening and talking to parents about their child. We welcome all contributions from home be they via a chat when dropping off, completion of WOW moments or sharing successes or worries. All parents and carers are highly valued as part of our nursery community.

2. AIMS

Our aims are:-

- To increase and enhance the successes of each child in the nursery and to support their Next Steps and areas for development by the involvement of their parent/carers.
- To encourage educational values of the EYFS to be continued into the children's homes.
- For the children to recognize the positive relationship between staff and parents at the start of their educational lives.
- To enjoy and celebrate the involvement of parents/carers in their child's 'learning journey.'
- To provide for a productive partnership between home and nursery.
- To welcome the contribution that parents can bring to support the development of and activities in the Nursery.

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3. INVOLVEMENT IN CHILDREN'S LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Parents and carers can talk with Keyworkers and Practitioners by appointment, or after Nursery on an informal basis most days. Appointments for longer or more formal discussions may be made through the Nursery Manager.

Reporting to parents may involve the following :-

- **Next Steps** are discussed and ideas are given to parents about how they can support their child's learning at home.
- Parents are informed of their child's progress after the '**2 year old check**' is completed which happens between the age of 2 and 3 years.
- **Famly**'*(Tapestry'-pre January 2020) **online learning journey** keep parents up to date with activities and progress
- If a child has English as a second language (**EAL**) the practitioners work with parents to support the child's language development and check there are not other issues preventing language development in the usual way.
- If a child has a special educational need or a disability (**SEND**) the practitioners work with parents to encourage sharing of knowledge with professionals and to get the support the child and family needs.

Formal parents meetings are held three times a year.:-

- ✓ In Mid-Autumn term -a 'getting to know you' session and next steps information.
- ✓ Mid- Spring term - formal consultation on progress and next steps
- ✓ and Mid-Summer term a summary of progress and next steps.
- ✓ **Summative assessment/Moving-on form** is completed at the end of the child's Nursery experience and shared with parents, before being sent to the school of choice.
- ✓ A **Transition form** is completed to send up to the next class when the child moves within the Nursery.
- ✓ Next steps information is accessible on '**famly**' termly plus a summative observation. (*Famly*'*(Tapestry'-pre January 2020) *online learning journey-As of November 2019 the Nursery is changing from Tapestry to Famly and it will be up and running from January 2020. In the meantime paper assessments will be undertaken.*)

4. HOW ARE FAMILIES INVOLVED IN NURSERY LIFE?

- **Bi-weekly newsletters** are emailed to parents, carers and /or grandparents*- a hard copy can be given on request. These letters detail events or activities which are happening in the future, report on events, include a calendar, give parents relevant information about the EYFS, and report on the activities of each class and Forest school, during the past week. **Policies** are regularly

attached for parent information. Parents may also be informed of certain events or activities, concerns by individual **letters** sent home.

** Where parents work during Nursery hours grandparents are often the link between parents and nursery, as they pick up and drop off children during the week and may care for them part -time.*

- A **website** gives parents information about the Nursery, policies, structure, calendar etc.
- A **facebook** page updates parents on events and news such as emergency closures, Catkins Toddler group etc
- **Famly'**(Tapestry'-pre January 2020) **online learning journey** is used to give parents information about their child and gives them an opportunity to include comments and observations they have made.
- **Social events** are organized through the year including :-
 - **3 Parents evenings,**
 - **Christmas and Summer concerts**
 - **Sports days in Summer term**
 - **Christmas, Spring and Summer Fairs**
- The parents and friends association is called **CAF**(Charters Ancaster Friends) and all parents are welcome to take part.
- Annually the Nursery seeks parents' opinions and views formally through a **questionnaire**. (Usually in Mid Spring term)
- **Take home library bags**
- **Take home activity bags**
- **Catkins Toddler group** takes place each week in the Wallis hall for children under 3 .It often serves as an introduction to the Nursery environment for new parents, carers and grandparents.

5. SOME DON'TS FOR CHILDREN'S FAMILIES

We remind parents/grandparents etc of the following:-

- that mobile phones and cameras should not be used by parents within the setting unless permission is given by the Nursery Manager.eg at a concert
- posting of photographs of children in the setting other than their own is prohibited.
- Publishing of any information regarding other children in the setting is not permitted.

6. PARENTS/GRANDPARENTS AS VOLUNTEERS

- If a parent/grandparent wishes to be used as a volunteer in the Nursery setting they need to have a personal background check with the DBS prior to their involvement. (**if the person is to be unchaperoned.**) References will also be taken.

- Visitors need to sign in the main office as a fire record.
- All helpers will be reminded of the confidential nature of their work in the nursery and they will be given Safeguarding instruction and will be checked according to Government Standards.