



**PARENT COMMUNICATION AND INVOLVEMENT POLICY**

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| **Reviewed on** | **Approved by** |
| 06.05.2021 | N. Crump |
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1. **INTRODUCTION**

The UK Government’s Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework which is based on research into 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 , contributions through the interactive home/nursery online tool ‘Famly’, or sharing successes or worries. All parents and carers are highly valued as part of our nursery community.

1. **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 in terms of support for activities in the Nursery and in aiding future developments.
1. **INVOLVEMENT IN CHILDREN’S LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

Parents and carers can talk with Keyworkers and Practitioners in person by appointment, or by telephone, , 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 ‘**2year old check’** is completed which happens between the age of 2 and 3 years.
* **Famly‘**\*(Tapestry’-pre January 2020) **online learning journey** keeps 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 no 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 child’s future school and parents sign it.
* **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**’ (online assessment tool) termly plus a summative longer observation.
* **NB During the Covid pandemic parent/practitioner face to face meetings may be transferred online or made by telephone instead.**
1. **HOW ARE FAMILIES INVOLVED IN NURSERY LIFE?**
* **Monthly 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 by individual **letters** sent home of certain events or activities, or if there are concerns.

*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 newsletter copy can be sent on request.*

* **Our website** gives parents information about the Nursery, policies, structure, calendar etc.
* A **Facebook** page updates parents on events and news such as emergency closures, Forest School Toddler group etc
* **Famly‘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:-
1. *3 Parents evenings,*
2. *Christmas and Summer concerts*
3. *Sports days in Summer term*
4. *Christmas, Spring and Summer Fairs*
* **CAF (Charters Ancaster Friends)** The parents and friends’ association provide support both financially and personally, and all parents are welcome to take part.
* **Annual parents’ questionnaire** - the Nursery seeks parents’ opinions and views formally through**.** (Usually in Mid Spring term)
* Take- **home library bags**
* Take**-home activity bags**
* **Take-home class ‘Bears’ and diary**
* **Forest School Toddler group** takes place each week in the Forest School area for children under 3 .It often serves as an introduction to the Nursery environment for new parents, carers and grandparents.

***NB .SOME OF THESE EVENTS MAY HAVE HAD TO BE POSTPONED OR ADAPTED DURING THE PANDEMIC.***

1. **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 on social media of children in the setting (other than their own) is prohibited.
* Publishing of any information regarding other children in the setting is not permitted.
1. **PARENTS/GRANDPARENTS AS VOLUNTEERS**
* If a parent/grandparent wishes to be used as a volunteer during nursery hours 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.