



The Goslings Preschool

Registered Charity No. 1209514

Parental Involvement Policy

Policy Statement

We believe that children benefit most from early years education and care when parents and settings 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 our setting. We also aim to support parents in their own continuing education and personal development.

Some parents are less well represented in early years settings; 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 that 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 stepparents 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' relates to all the rights, duties, powers, responsibilities and authority which by law a parent of a child has in relation to the child (The Children Act, 1989).

Procedures

- Parents are made to feel welcome in our setting and they are greeted appropriately.
- We have a means to ensure all parents are included; that may mean that we have different strategies for involving fathers, or parents who work or live apart from their children.
- We make every effort to accommodate parents who have a disability or impairment.
- We consult with all parents to find out what works best for them.
- We ensure there is 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 setting is run and its policies, through access to written information and up-to-date policies being available on our website, including our Safeguarding Children and Child Protection policy and our responsibilities under the Prevent Duty, and through regular informal communication. We check to ensure parents understand the information that is given to them.
- Information about a child and their family is kept confidential within our setting. Our privacy notice and GDPR policy detail how and why we process your personal information. The exception to this is where there is cause to believe that a child may be suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm, or where there are concerns regarding a child's development that need to be shared with another agency. We will seek parental permission unless there are reasons not to, in order to protect the safety of the child.

- We seek specific parental consent to administer medication (e.g. asthma inhaler), take a child for emergency treatment, take a child on an outing and take photographs for the purposes of record keeping.
- The expectations that we make on parents are made clear at the point of registration.
- Parents are actively encouraged to play an active part in the governance and management of the preschool via the Parent Committee.
- We encourage parents to become involved in the social and cultural life of the setting and to actively contribute to it.
- As far as possible, our service is provided in a flexible way to meet the needs of parents without compromising the needs of children. If staffing and availability allows, we will, for example, try and accommodate ad hoc requests to change days/sessions for children to attend when requested by parents.
- Our key persons meet/speak regularly with parents to discuss their child's progress and to share concerns if they arise.
- Where applicable, our key persons work with parents to carry out an agreed plan to support special educational needs.
- Where applicable, our key persons work with parents to carry out any agreed tasks where a Protection Plan is in place for a child.
- 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.
- We provide opportunities for parents to contribute their own skills, knowledge and interests to the activities of the setting.
- We consult with parents about the times of meetings to avoid excluding anyone.
- We provide information about opportunities to be involved in the setting in ways that are accessible to parents with basic skills needs, or those for whom English is an additional language; making every effort to provide an interpreter for parents who speak a language other than English and to provide translated written materials.
- 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 we 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 setting and about young children's learning, in the setting and at home.

This Policy has been reviewed and agreed by The Goslings Management Team and Parental Committee.