

## PARENTS AS PARTNERS POLICY

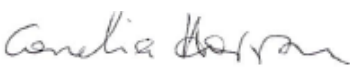
We believe that in order for children to receive quality care and early learning that suits their individual needs, parents and staff need to work together in a close partnership. The two-way sharing of information is key to this. The Nursery School welcomes parents as partners and this relationship needs to be built on trust and understanding. It is important that we, as practitioners, are able to support parents in an open and sensitive manner.

The Nursery School wishes to ensure parents are an integral part of the care and early learning team within the nursery.

- Recognise and support parents as their child's first and most important educators, and welcome them into the life of the Nursery School
- Generate confidence and encourage parents to trust their own instincts and judgement regarding their own child
- Welcome all parents into the Nursery School at any time
- Welcome nursing mothers. The nursery will make available a private area whenever needed to offer space and privacy to nursing mothers
- Ensure that all parents are aware of the Nursery School's policies and procedures. A detailed parent handbook will be provided and our full policy documents will be available to parents at all times in our Welcome Folder in the reception area
- Maintain regular contact with parents to help us to build a secure and beneficial working relationship for their children
- Create opportunities for parents to talk to other adults in a secure and supportive environment through such activities as parent afternoons and parents' evenings
- Inform parents about nursery activities and events through our monthly parent memo, weekly emails and our website
- Operate a key person system to enable a close working relationship with all parents. Support two-way information sharing regarding each child's individual needs both in the Nursery School and at home
- Inform parents on a regular basis about their child's progress and involve them in the shared record keeping. Parents' evenings will be held twice a year.
- Consider and discuss all suggestions from parents concerning the care and early learning of their child
- Provide opportunities and support for all parents to contribute their own skills, knowledge and interests to the activities of the Nursery School
- Inform all parents of the systems for registering queries, compliments, complaints or suggestions, and to check that these systems are understood by parents. All parents have access to our written complaints procedure
- Provide opportunities for parents to learn about the Early Years Foundation Stage and Montessori Education

- Provide a written contract between the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the Nursery School regarding conditions of acceptance and arrangements for payment
- Respect the family's religious and cultural backgrounds and beliefs and accommodate any special requirements wherever possible and practical to do so
- Find out the needs and expectations of parents. These will be obtained through regular feedback via questionnaires and a suggestion system and by encouraging parents to review working practices. These are then evaluated by the Nursery School to promote nursery practice, policy and staff development
- The Nursery School is required to review the progress of children aged between two and three years of age in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and provide parents with a short written summary of their child's development in the prime areas. It is the parents' responsibility to hand this two-year-old assessment report to their health visitors. This two-year-old report is a statutory requirement and is in place to link Nursery Schools and health visitors better for the welfare of the child.  
 Hopes and Dreams is part of the Islington integrated 2 year review pilot scheme, which is beginning to develop a joint review for two year olds that will cover both health and education. The review is intended to fully involve parents/carers in reviewing their children's learning and development. If a child needs extra support, health and education professionals can work together with parents from the start in order to help them.

Reviewed on: February 2018

Signed on behalf of the Nursery School:  .....

Next review date: February 2019