

15. Parental Involvement¹

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Statement of Intent

We believe that children benefit most from Pre-school education and care when parents/carers and the setting work’s together in partnership.

When we refer to ‘parents’ we mean both Mothers and Fathers; these include both natural or parents who have had legal guardianship from birth, as well as step-parents 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.

Aim

Our aim is to:

- To support parents as their children’s first and most important educators.
- To involve parents in the life of North Nibley Pre-school and their children’s education.
- To support parents in their own continuing education and personal development.

Parental Responsibility

Whilst the law does not define in detail what parental responsibility is, <https://www.gov.uk/parental-rights-responsibilities> states that:

“All mothers and most fathers have legal rights and responsibilities as a parent – known as ‘parental responsibility’”.

¹ The Children Act (1989) defines parental responsibility as ‘*all the rights, duties, powers, responsibilities and authority which by law a parent of a child has in relation to the child and his property*’.

If you have parental responsibility, your most important roles are:

- providing a home for the child;
- protecting and maintaining the child.

You are also responsible for:

- disciplining the child;
- choosing and providing for the child's education;
- agreeing to the child's medical treatment;
- naming the child and agreeing to any change of name; and
- looking after the child's property.'

Parents have to ensure that their child is supported financially, whether they have parental responsibility or not.'

For more information visit www.gov.uk.

Anti-bullying

North Nibley Pre-school takes bullying very seriously and we require our parents/carers to:

- contact the Play Leader if they are concerned that their child might be being bullied, or who suspect that their child may be the perpetrator of bullying;
- have a responsibility to actively support the Pre-school's anti-bullying policy² and actively encourage their child to be a positive member of the setting;
- support the Pre-school's ethos and are expected to help develop their child's social skills;
- stress the importance of good social behaviour to their children;
- report any concern to the Pre-school;
- discuss with their child the importance of good behaviour in Pre-school.

Method

In order to fulfil these aims:

- We ensure 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 through regular informal communication. We check to ensure parents understand the information that is given to them.
- We encourage and support parents to play an active part in the governance and management of the setting.
- We inform all parents on a regular basis about their children's progress, through Tapestry and next steps are uploaded for parents/ carers to see/ work on.
- We involve parents in the shared record keeping about their children – either formally or informally – and ensure parents have access to their children's development records.
- We provide opportunities for parents to contribute their own skills, knowledge and interests to the activities of the setting.
- We inform parents about relevant conferences, workshops and training.
- We consult with parents about the times of meetings to avoid excluding anyone.

² See also Policy 3 Behaviour Management

- 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.
- We hold meetings in venues that are accessible and appropriate to all.
- We are able to hold meetings online during pandemics.
- We welcome the contributions of parents; in a form that they feel comfortable with such as email, phone or in person.
- 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 email out the planning every week so parents can also be involved at home.
- We have a “daily diary” on the front door letting parents know what we have done through the day.
- We send a yearly questionnaire for parents to have their views and input within the preschool.

In compliance with the statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (ie. safeguarding and welfare requirements), the following documentation is in place:

- Admissions policy
- Complaints policy
- Record of complaints
- Developmental records of children.

Associated Policies & Procedures

- No 3 : Behaviour Management