



Parent Partnership

Waltham Pre-school believes that parents and staff need to work together in a close partnership in order for children to receive the quality of care and early learning to meet their individual needs.

We welcome parents as partners and support a three-way sharing of information between parent, child and setting. This helps establish trust, understanding and a good holistic/caring relationship.

We are committed to supporting parents in an open and sensitive manner to include them as an integral part of the care and early learning team within the preschool.

Working together ensures we can meet the individual needs of the family and child and provide the highest quality of care and education. It also ensures an environment where information can be shared freely.

The key person system supports engagement with all parents and we use strategies to ensure that all parents can contribute to their child's learning and development.

We ask parents to contribute to initial assessments of children's starting points on entry and they are kept well informed about their children's progress.

We encourage parents to support and share information about their children's learning and development at home and the key person seeks to engage them in guiding their child's development at home too.

The key person system ensures all practitioners use effective, targeted strategies and interventions to support learning that match most children's individual needs.

Our policy is to:

- Recognise and support parents as their child's first and most important educators and to welcome them into the life of the pre-school.
- Generate confidence and encourage parents to trust their own instincts and judgement regarding their own child.
- Welcome all parents into the pre-school at any time and provide an area where parents can speak confidentially with us as required.
- Ensure pre-school documentation and communications can be provided in different formats to suit each parent's needs.
- Ensure that all parents are aware of the preschool's policies and procedures. A detailed parent prospectus will be provided and our full policy documents will be available to parents at all times on the pre-school website.

- Maintain regular contact with parents to help us to build a secure and beneficial working relationship for their children.
- Support parents in their own continuing education and personal development including helping them to develop their parenting skills and inform them of relevant information, workshops, meetings and training as appropriate.
- Create opportunities for parents to talk to other adults in a secure and supportive environment through such activities as open days and parents' evenings
- Inform parents about the range and type of activities and experiences provided for children, the daily routines of the setting, the types of food and drinks provided for children and events through regularly distributed newsletters or via Tapestry and the pre-school website.
- Operate a key person system to enable parents to establish a close, working relationship with a named practitioner and to support information sharing about each child's individual needs both in pre-school and at home.
- Parents are given the name of the key person of their child and their role when the child starts and updated regularly.
- Inform parents on a regular basis about their child's progress and involve them in shared record keeping. Parents' evenings are held and preschool staff consults with parents and extended families who may be co-parenting about the times of meetings to avoid excluding anyone
- Actively encourage parents to contribute to children's learning through sharing observations, interests and experiences from home. This may be verbally, sharing photographs or in written form.
- Consider and discuss all suggestions from parents concerning the care and early learning of their child and pre-school operational matters.
- Provide opportunities and support for all parents to contribute their own skills, knowledge and interests to the activities of the nursery including signposting to relevant services, agencies and training opportunities as appropriate.
- Inform all parents of the systems for registering queries, compliments, complaints or suggestions, and to check that these systems are understood by parents.
- Make sure all parents have access to our written complaint's procedure; this is via the website, although a hard copy may be requested.
- Share information about the Early Years Foundation Stage, young children's learning in the pre-school, how parents can further support learning at home and where they can access further information.
- Provide a written contract between the parent(s) and the pre-school regarding 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.
- Inform parents how the pre-school supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- Find out the needs and expectations of parents. We will do this through regular feedback via questionnaires, and encouraging parents to review working practices.
- We will evaluate any responses and publish these for parents with an action plan to inform future, policy and staff development.

Data will be processed to be in line with the requirements and protections set out in the UK General Data Protection Regulation.