

Transitions

At Waltham Pre-school we recognise that young children will experience many transitions in their early years; some of these planned and some unplanned. We are sensitive to the impact of such changes to children and this policy sets out the ways in which we support children going through these transitions.

Some of the transitions that young children and babies may experience are:

- Starting nursery
- Starting school or moving settings
- Family breakdowns
- New siblings
- Moving home
- Death of a family member or close friend
- Death of a family pet.

Staff are trained to observe their key children and to be sensitive to any changes in their behaviour and personality. We respectfully ask that parents inform us of any changes in the home environment that may impact on their child, so staff can be aware of the reasons behind any potential changes in the child's behaviour.

Starting Pre-school

We recognise that starting pre-school may be a difficult transition for some children and their families. We settle and reassure families and children by:

- Focusing on the individual needs of the child and family.
- Keeping parents informed of the sessions and procedures.
- Keeping regular and reassuring contact with parents via telephone and tapestry, encouraging parents to ring us at any time.

Starting school or moving childcare providers

Starting school is an important transition and some children may feel anxious about the move.

We will do all we can to facilitate a smooth transition and minimise any potential stresses.

This following process relates to children going to school and wherever applicable, we will adapt this process to support children moving to another childcare provider e.g. childminder or another setting.

- We provide a variety of resources that relate to the school, e.g. uniform to dress up in, a role play area set up as a school classroom, photographs of all the schools the children

may attend and of the teachers. This helps the children to become familiar with this new concept and will aid the transition

- We invite school representatives into the pre-school, where possible or invite them to talk via online platforms such as Zoom so they have the opportunity to introduce themselves to the children
- Each key person will talk about the school with their key children who are due to move to school and discuss what they think may be different and what may be the same. They will talk through any concerns the child may have and initiate activities or group discussions relating to any issues to help children overcome these
- We produce a comprehensive report on every child leaving the setting and with parental permission will share this with the school to enable teachers to have a good understanding of every child received. This will include their interests, strengths and level of understanding and development in key areas. This will support continuity of care and early learning
- With parental permission around school allocation day we may share details of the school's children are going to so parent/carers can see which children may be going to the same school. This can offer some reassurance for the children to know that are moving with some familiar peers.
- We recognise that some children, such as those with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities, may need additional support during periods of transition and we are committed to working with parents and all relevant agencies to support them during this time.

Other early years providers

- Where children are attending other early years settings or are cared for by a childminder we will work with them to share relevant information about children's development.
- Where a child is brought to preschool or collected from pre-school by a childminder we will ensure that key information is being provided to the child's parent by providing the information directly to the parent via email, video call or telephone.

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

For those children transitioning to Waltham-on-the-Wolds CE Primary School, there is further information on their website <https://www.waltham.leics.sch.uk/induction-and-transition/>