

# Partnership with parents policy

At The Life Nursery we believe that children benefit most from nursery education and care when parents and the nursery are working together in partnership. Parents are a child’s first and most enduring educators and when parents and early years settings work together it has a positive impact on a child’s development and learning.

We welcome all parents into the setting and encourage their involvement within nursery life to enable each child to individually flourish.

We believe in caring professional relationships and respect and acknowledge the feelings of the children and their families.

Aims:

* To support parents as their children's first and most important educators.
* To involve parents in the life of the nursery and their children's education.
* To support parents in their own continuing education and personal development.
* To provide a welcoming environment with approachable staff to encourage effective communication.
* We implement the early year’s foundation stage framework to encourage positive relationships and parents as partners in our daily practice.

In order to fulfil these aims:

We operate an open door policy and are committed to ongoing dialogue with parents to improve our knowledge of their children’s needs and to support their families in ways such as:

* Access to written information including welcome packs, parent notice boards, newsletters, policies and procedures through this we inform all parents about how the nursery is run and welcome any involvement and input into these from parents.
* We encourage and support parents to play an active part in the governance and management of the nursery, activities which take part within the nursery and how the nursery is run as well as being offered various questionnaires relating to the nursery and their children’s care.
* We inform all parents on a regular basis about their children's progress through daily communication with parents and key persons, communication boards and parent’s evenings.
* Fun day activities may occasionally be arranged out of nursery hours in the form of fundraising and social events for all parents/carers to attend.
* 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 records.
* We ensure that parents are informed at all stages of the assessment, planning, provision and review of their children's education.
* Parents are encouraged to share news regarding their child’s home life through key persons, interest sheets and our parents and child news boards.
* We occasionally invite parents to donate spare clothes, toys, books which may be used within the nursery or for fundraising.
* All parents have access to our written complaints procedure; and questionnaires/ parents suggestion box, to openly give suggestions.
* We believe all communication is important and this includes gesture, signing and body language, as actions can speak louder than words, anyone showing signs of abusive or negative communication may be asked to leave the setting.
* Our confidentiality policy enables parents to feel welcomed and to have the confidence to discuss confidential matters at any time within the nursery.
* Each child is given a key person whom the child and parents are encouraged to form a bond and parent carer partnership with. The role of the child’s key person is to ensure parents can share incorporation confidential or not regarding their child with a member of staff of who the parent and child feel comfortable building a good relationship with.
* Before a child is registered with us we provide opportunities for parents and child to visit the setting to have a show round and the child ands parents are encouraged to undertake settling in sessions to support the transition for parents, carers and child. We work with parents to decide on the best way to help the child to settle in creating strategies for the individual children and families.
* We offer home visits to new families of children starting as well as for children that are finding settling into the nursery environment difficult.

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* We work in partnership with parents and other agencies in meeting individual children's needs.
* We provide parents with information on sources of independent advice and support.

Reviewed March 2018

Policy read and agreed by:

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