

Blue Windmill Nursery

Working in partnership with parents/families policy

Partnership with parents involves sharing responsibilities, recognising the prime role that parents play in their children's upbringing. Parents and practitioners can learn a lot from each other and we believe that parents should be involved in reviewing their children's progress regularly and contribute to their child's learning and development record. We will offer feedback on children's progress, using specific examples of achievement or behaviour and listen to parents' comments and opinions on their child's progress. We expect parents to inform us of any changes in the child's home circumstances, care arrangements or any other change which may affect the child's behaviour, such as a new baby, parents' separation, divorce, new partner or any bereavement. This will enable us to work together effectively to make sure that the care of the child is consistent. A consistent approach benefits the child's welfare and helps ensure the child is not confused. All information shared will be kept confidential unless there appears to be a child protection issue.

At Blue Windmill, staff will regularly observe, assess and record children's development and progress, and this will be shared with parents to ensure continuity of care between the families and the setting. We aim for all parents to feel welcome at nursery, and that their contribution is valued.

Respect will be shown for family's traditions and childcare practice, and our practice will be in harmony with the values, practices and wishes of the parents. Wherever possible we endeavour to meet parents' requests for the care of their children according to their values and practices, preferences and attitudes. Family customs and beliefs about dietary requirements, dress code, hair and skin care, help required with toilet and washing are respected as detailed in our Equal Opportunities Policy. If English is an additional language, we will find a way of communicating effectively. This may include seeking guidance from the local authority.

We positively encourage parents to get involved with their children's learning and from time to time may ask you to:

- Bring objects or photographs in from home.
- Help your child at home with concepts we are learning here at nursery.
- Help provide items to contribute to all celebrated festivals
- Participate in Parent Consultations, stay and play sessions, other nursery events

When starting a place at Nursery parents will be asked to sign a written contract which details the expectations of the care to be provided, activities and business arrangements. Parents are encouraged to ensure that they read and understand the terms and conditions, any questions can be clarified by the Nursery staff. The contract can be reviewed if and when circumstances change.

The Nursery is required to maintain a record of parents' and/or emergency contact details, contact details for the child's GP and appropriate signed consent forms. All details will be kept confidential and records are kept secure. Significant incidents are recorded on an incident form and will be shared and discussed with parents so that we can work together to resolve any issues.

Children will only be released from our care to the parent(s)/carer(s), or to an adult authorised by the parent/carers. A password will be used to confirm identity if the person collecting the child is not previously known to us.

Communication forms an important part of our relationship; we encourage parents to share any questions, feedback, or discussion of any kind that affect a positive outcome for the child. Sensitive issues can be discussed outside of regular hours, or by appointment. In addition, we will distribute a newsletter each month and ensure that the information board is informative and kept up to date. Parents / carers may have access to our Operational Plan to gain information regarding our policies and procedures.

Private Babysitting and Childcare Arrangements

The nursery strongly discourages private babysitting or childcare arrangements between staff and nursery families, as these can create blurred professional boundaries, safeguarding concerns, confidentiality risks, and potential conflicts of interest.

Where such arrangements do take place, they are considered private agreements between the individuals involved and are not arranged, endorsed, insured or supervised by the nursery.

Staff must:

- Inform management if they undertake regular babysitting for a nursery family
- Maintain professional conduct and confidentiality at all times
- Avoid discussing nursery business, children, families or staff outside of work
- Ensure private arrangements do not affect professional relationships within the nursery

Additional care should be taken where parents are also employees of the nursery, to ensure clear professional boundaries are maintained.