

WHITLEY LODGE UNDER FIVES

PARENTAL PARTNERSHIP POLICY

Statement of intent

We believe that children benefit most from pre-school education and care when parents and pre-schools work together in partnership. Children thrive in a setting where parents are involved.

Aim

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

Method

In order to fulfil these aims:

- we are committed to on going dialogue with parents to improve our knowledge of the needs of their children and to support their families;
- we will make all new parents aware of the setting's systems and policies by handing out a 'Welcome Pack' and through regular informal communication (a full set of policies is displayed in the group and a selection are on the website)
- we encourage and support parents to play an active part in the governance and management of the pre-school – as a committee run group with a charitable status we rely on parents to play an active part in the management of the group – subject to a satisfactory Ofsted check (including DBS);
- we inform all parents on a regular basis about their children's progress, both informally on a daily basis and more formally at open events, using the key person system;
- 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 encourage all parents to contribute their own skills, knowledge and interests to the activities of the group;
- we inform parents about relevant conferences, workshops, training, outings and events;
- we try to hold meetings in venues and at times which are appropriate and accessible for all to avoid excluding anyone;
- we provide information about opportunities for being involved in the pre-school in ways which are accessible to parents with basic skills needs, or those for whom English is an additional language;
- We welcome the contributions of parents, in whatever form these may take, as committee members, volunteer helpers or with general tasks. Please note to help in the pre-school all volunteers over the age of 16 need to provide two references and have an up to date enhanced DBS check. We understand that all parents cannot contribute in the same way but all help is equally valued;
- we value parents ideas and suggestions and use a suggestion box and parent questionnaires as a source of information;
- We inform all parents of the systems for registering queries, complaints or suggestions. All parents have access to our written complaints procedure and Ofsted's address and telephone number is displayed in the cloakroom.;

- we share information with parents via notices sent home, notices displayed in the cloakroom, newsletters, e-mails and Tapestry
- we inform parents of current themes and activities via the notice board, displayed curriculum plans and newsletters and Tapestry
- We encourage parental involvement in the settling in of their child when they start pre-school.