

Parental Partnership Policy

Parents are children's first and most enduring educators. When parents and practitioners work together in early years' settings, the results have a positive impact on the child's development and learning.

Curriculum guidance for the Foundation Stage QCA 2000

At Little Pumpkins Nursery, we consider ourselves to be sharing responsibility with parents for the care and education of their children. The relationship between the Nursery and parents begins at our first meeting with a parent, on their first visit to the Nursery. At this meeting, we try to establish the notion of partnership with parents. We gather information and ask for parental input about the child's interests and abilities, during the first few weeks of settling in. With babies, we will try and keep as close to the home routine as possible.

Parents are invited to attend Open Days and Parent Evenings to discuss issues concerning child development, the curriculum, teaching, and learning.

Parents are welcome in the Nursery whenever they have free time to participate in activities in the Nursery. We encourage parents to join us on outings, enabling the children to have more adult interaction, maximising their learning and enjoyment on the outing. On special days of celebration, parents are invited into Nursery to share with us. Parents are involved on a more behind-the-scenes level, as they perhaps offer their skills to benefit the Nursery through helping at fund raising events.

There is also a "Parent's Notice Board" where the current learning areas are displayed, along with other items of interest.

The aim of the Nursery is to support parents' essential work, not to supplant them. We will: -

- Make all new parents aware of the group's systems, policies and procedures.
- Encourage parents on an individual basis to play an active part in the management of the group
- Ensure that parents are informed on a regular basis about their child's progress
- Ensure that all parents have opportunities to contribute from their own skills, knowledge and interests to the activities of the group
- Involve parents in shared record keeping about their own child, either formally or informally
- Ensure that all parents are informed fully about meetings, conferences, workshops and training
- Consult with families about the times of meetings to avoid excluding anyone
- Hold meetings in venues that are accessible and appropriate for all
- Welcome the contributions of parents, whatever form they may take
- Make known to all parents the systems for registering queries, complaints, compliments or suggestions
- Provide opportunities for parents to learn about the Nursery curriculum and about young children's learning, in Nursery and at home