

# Early Years Partnership with Parents Policy 2024-25



In the Early Years, we recognise the primary role and responsibility that God gives to parents in the upbringing and education of their children. Our aim is to work with parents in this task, giving them all the support we can and to do our utmost to help their children get the best out of their early childhood experiences. We acknowledge that parents are children's first and most enduring educators and we see parents and families as central to children's wellbeing. We value our relationships with parents and see this as a vital aspect of the family atmosphere we seek to create. Listed below are the key aspects of how we work together in partnership:

- We welcome and value all families who are sympathetic to our Christian ethos, irrespective of culture, race or background.
- Although we work as a staff team, we also operate a key person system whereby the key person seeks to build a special relationship with the child and his or her family, providing support for the child, being a point of contact for parents, and keeping the child's Learning Journey and concerns/no concerns reporting up to date on Tapestry.
- We value the parents' perspective on their child and recognise the need for a two-way flow of information and expertise between parents and staff. We seek to provide formal and informal opportunities for this to take place: through informal chats at the start or end of sessions, the online learning journey on Tapestry, sending home a Learning Journey questionnaire, parent meetings etc.
- We encourage parents to contribute to their child's Learning Journey on Tapestry.
- We welcome parents' involvement in the setting, either as a parent helper (eg for outdoor learning), through passing on a particular skill or knowledge in a certain area, or through providing practical support.
- We make termly planning available for parents to read on the notice board in the foyer area. A weekly e-mail giving details of the next week's activities and any other important information is sent out to parents.
- Copies of our latest inspection report and various school policies are available on the website.
- We organise occasional events where parents can join us, such as the Christmas performance or outings.
- Parents can find helpful information about the setting on the school website when their child first starts.
- We aim to work with parents to meet any particular Special Educational Need, medical or dietary need their child may have.

- Parents should inform EY staff and the school office by email before the start of the school day if their child is absent due to illness.
- Where we feel a child may have additional unmet needs, we would offer to carry out a Strengths and Needs Assessment with parents to help them access the support they may need from other services. This is a shared assessment tool for use across all the support services for children. It aims to help early identification of children's additional needs and promote coordinated service provision. It can also be used to support the whole family in times of need. The Strengths and Needs Assessment (Early Help) is undertaken with the consent and full participation of the child and their family.
- Parents are welcome to pass on suggestions, comments and any concerns regarding our ongoing provision either via their key person, or to the Head of Early Years, Adrienne Blakey.

**Reviewed and approved November 2024**

**Next review November 2025**