

## The Strawberry Patch Nursery and Pre-School

### 2.3 Parents/Carers as Partners

#### **Policy Statement**

**“The Strawberry Patch is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults at all times and expects everybody working within this setting to share this commitment”**

At The Strawberry Patch Nursery and Pre-School we believe our children benefit most from early year’s education and care when parents and the setting work together in partnership.

Our aim is to support parents/carers as their children’s first and most important educators by involving them in their children’s education and in the full life of the setting.

We realise that some parents/carers are less well represented in early year’s settings; these may include fathers, parents who live apart from their children but who still play a part in their lives as well as working parents/carers. In carrying out the following procedure we will ensure all parents/carers are included.

When we refer to ‘parents/carers’ we mean both mothers and fathers, these include both natural and birth parents as well as step parents and those who do not live with their children, but have contact with them and play a part in their lives. ‘Parents/carers’ also includes same sex parents as well as foster parents.

‘Parental responsibility’ is all the rights, duties, powers and responsibilities and authority which by law a parent of a child has in relation to the child and his property. (If unsure please ask for further information of who has parental **Open-Door policy**)

Our aim is to maintain a close relationship with all parents/carers ensuring their needs are met through our open-door policy, which enables you to speak to your child’s key person informally at the beginning or end of each day, should more time be needed, to discuss your child’s progress and development an appointment can be made at a mutually convenient time. We like to involve parents/carers in their child’s time at nursery where they can join in activities.

#### **Procedures**

- We consult with all parents/carers to find out what is best for them, that may mean we have different strategies for involving fathers or parents who work or live apart from their children.
- We ensure ongoing communication with parents/carers to improve our knowledge of their child’s needs and how we can support the families.
- We have a comments box for parents/carers to give their views and ideas for the setting.
- We encourage parents/carers to become actively involved in the setting forming a positive working relationship with their child’s key person.
- We inform parentcarers regularly about their children’s progress and involve them in shared record keeping, formally or informally, encouraging them to take home their child’s learning story at least every half term. We also encourage parents/carers to view and add to their child’s tapestry account, sharing experiences from home and special events.
- We ensure the children’s Learning stories in the baby room are on display at all times for the parents/carers and children to access them.
- We involve parents/carers in shared record keeping about their child, either formally or informally.

- We welcome the contributions of parents/carers in whatever form this may take.
- We ensure times, places and information about meetings are available to all parents/carers and home visits can be arranged where needed. No home visits are to take place during pandemic periods, for example Covid-19.
- We Invite parents/carers to all parent/carer consultations, open days and fun days we arrange at the nursery.
- Regular emails are sent out with information and reminders on upcoming events or important information but we will also provide this on the door for each room in the form of a poster for those parents/carers who do not have email.
- We ensure time is offered to all parents/carers to discuss any worries or concerns confidentially and in a quiet place away from others.
- We welcome nursing mothers. The nursery will make available an area whenever needed to offer space and privacy to these mothers.
  
- We will ensure our full policy documents are available to parents/carers at all times and they will be kept in an easily accessible place within the nursery.
- We inform all parents/carers of the system of registering queries, complaints and suggestions and check to ensure these are understood.
- A suggestion/comments box is in operation for parents/carers,
- All parents/carers have access to our written complaint's procedure.

**Signed:** RBaillie

**Date:** September 2020

**Review Date:** September 2021