



Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Information and records

10.5 Parental involvement

Policy statement

We believe that children benefit most from early year's education and care when parents and settings work together in partnership.

Our aim is to support parents 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 also aim to support parents in their own continuing education and personal development.

Some parents are less well represented in early year's settings; these include fathers, parents who live apart from their children but who still play a part in their lives as well as working parents. In carrying out the following procedures, we will ensure all parents are included.

When we refer to 'parents' we mean both mothers and fathers; these include both natural or birth parents as well as step-parents and parents who do not live with their children, but have contact with them and play a part in their lives. 'Parents' 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.



Procedures

- We have a means to ensure all parents are included – that may mean we have different strategies for involving fathers or parents who work or live apart from their children.
- We consult with all parents to find out what works best for them.
- We ensure ongoing dialogue with parents to improve our knowledge of the needs of their children and to support their families.
- We inform all parents about how the setting is run and its policies through access to written information and through our web site. This includes our safeguarding Children and Child protection policy and our responsibilities under the Prevent Duty. Through regular informal communications we check to ensure parents understand the information that is given to them.
- Information about a child and his or her family is kept confidential within our setting. We provide you with a privacy Policy that details how and why we process your personal information. The exception to this is where there is cause to believe that a child may be suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm, or where there are concerns regarding child's development that need to be shared with another agency. We will seek parental permission unless there are reasons not to in order to protect the safety of the child or staff. Reference is made to our Information Sharing Policy on seeking consent for disclosure.
- We use a secure server to display up to date information about children's progress access by parents using individual passwords.
- We communicate using email, web site, notice board, face book and coffee mornings.
- We involve parents in the shared record keeping about their children - either formally or informally - and ensure parents have access to their children's developmental records using "My Montessori Child".
- We provide opportunities for parents to contribute their own skills, knowledge and interests to the activities of the setting. These include reading dual language books.
- We support families to be involved in activities that promote their own learning and well-being; informing parents about relevant conferences, workshops and training.



- We consult with parents about the times of meetings to avoid excluding anyone.
- We provide information about opportunities to be involved in the setting in ways that are accessible to parents with basic skills needs, or those for whom English is an additional language.
- We hold meetings in venues that are accessible and appropriate for all.
- We welcome the contributions of parents, in whatever form these may take.
- We inform all parents of the systems for registering queries, complaints or suggestions and check to ensure these are understood.
- We provide opportunities for parents to learn about the curriculum offered in the setting and about young children's learning, in the setting and at home.

In compliance with the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements, the following documentation is in place:

- Admissions policy.
- Complaints procedure.
- Record of complaints.
- Developmental records of children.

Other publications

- Complaint Investigation Record (2015)
- Safeguarding Children (2013)

This policy was adopted at a staff meeting of Orpington Montessori Preschool in November 2018.

On behalf of Orpington Montessori – Cima Shahroudi

Role – Group Manager

Date of Review: October/November 2019 or earlier if required.