



Policy for Parental Involvement in the EYFS

Please also refer to '**The Role of the Key Person and Settling-In in the EYFS**'

Policy Statement:

Staff at Cranford House School and Nursery believe that children benefit most from EYFS care and education when parents and staff work together in partnership. Our aim is to support parents by involving them in their children's education and in the full life of the EYFS setting.

We recognise that some parents are often less well-represented in Early Years settings; particularly fathers, parents who live apart from their children but who still play a part in their lives and also working parents. In order to ensure all parents are included, staff follow the procedures set out in this policy. When we refer to '*parents*' in any information or documentation, 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.

'The Children's Act' (1989) defines 'parental responsibility' as: 'all the rights, duties, powers, responsibilities and authority which by law a parent of a child has in relation to the child and his property'.

This policy has regard to the '*Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage*' *Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Information and Records (3.68 'Providers must ensure a regular two-way flow of information with parents and/or carers')*.

This document is available to all staff in the Policies folder on the internal R: Drive. It is also available to parents and interested parties on the School website. This policy is reviewed annually, and when events or legislation requires, by the Headmaster, Head of EYFS and Governors. The next review date is May 2021.

Key Personnel:

The Key Person or Head of EYFS should be contacted should you have any questions or concerns regarding this document.

EYFS Key Themes and Commitments:

This policy corresponds with the following 'EYFS Key Themes and Commitments':

- A Unique Child (1.2 Inclusive Practice, 1.4 Health and Well-being)
- Positive Relationships (2.1 Respecting Each other, 2.2 Parents as Partners, 2.3 Supporting Learning, 2.4 Key Person)
- Enabling Environments (3.2 Supporting Every Child)
- Learning and Development (4.4 Personal, Social and Emotional Development)

Procedures:

- Parents are always made to feel welcome. We have suitable areas with seating on both sites in which parents can meet with the Head of EYFS and/or Key Person;
- Parents are supplied with relevant information about the EYFS at Cranford House when they are admitted to the setting, including an 'EYFS Handbook';
- We have a means to ensure we include all parents, ensuring that we involve fathers or parents who work or live apart from their children;
- Parents are welcome to request access to any of their child's Profile at any time and are encouraged to contribute to it too. Signs to this effect are displayed in the Nursery and Reception classrooms;
- Notice boards are situated in entrance halls and cloakrooms with daily information and details regarding the Local Offer from both Oxfordshire and Berkshire and OSCB contact information together with lunch menus etc.
- In the EYFS, parents are encouraged to have open communication with staff at drop-off and pick-up times. For more in-depth discussion, an appointment can be made with the child's Key Person. Formal Parents' Meetings are scheduled each term. Mid-Year reviews take place in February and a formal report is published in July which includes details of the child's Characteristics of Effective Learning;
- The website contains useful and important information and parents are advised to check it at least once a week. Most new information is uploaded on Thursdays. In addition to this, parents receive a 'Headmaster's Newsletter' every Friday, a weekly email newsletter which keeps them informed of events in the whole of Cranford House School. The Nursery and Reception classes produce a weekly email 'EYFS News' with a summary of the events of the previous week and reminders for the forthcoming week;
- Opportunities are provided for parents to learn about the curriculum offered in the setting and about young people's learning, in the setting and at home. There are opportunities for parents to take active roles in supporting their child's learning in the setting, both informally through helping out or taking part in activities with their child and through structured projects engaging parents and staff in learning about children's learning;
- Above all, the EYFS at Cranford House sees the care and education of all children as a partnership between the setting and the parents/carers.

Reviewed: May 2019: Headmaster, Head of EYFS and Governors
Reviewed: May 2020: Headmaster, Head of EYFS and Governors
Review Due: May 2021 by Headmaster, Head of EYFS and Governors