

University of Warwick Nursery

Parents as Partners Policy

We believe that working in partnership with parents is essential if we are to offer the children in our care every opportunity to reach their full potential.

Birth to 5 matters guidance states:

“Parents and carers make a crucial difference to children’s outcomes. It is vital that early years practitioners recognise parents’ commitment to their children’s early development and education and give priority to working with parents. Research tells us that regardless of the quality of settings, the most important predictor of children’s future outcomes is the quality of the home learning environment, so involving parents in their children’s learning is the most significant factor in enabling children to do well despite disadvantage. The benefits are greatest when practitioners and families work in respectful partnership to develop ways to support children both at home and in the setting. Working together ensures a good understanding of a child’s needs, leading to appropriate provision within the setting and the possibility of supporting learning in the home.”

It is the policy of this Nursery that parents/carers can actively participate, as partners in the care and welfare of their children while attending this nursery.

The nursery aims to achieve this by:

- Ensuring that parents are welcome to visit the Nursery at any time during their child’s sessions.
- Ensuring parents/carers play an active part in their child’s learning and development by sharing information with their key person, providing a consistent approach to learning and behaviour with their key person at nursery and at home, sharing ideas and celebrating progress and achievements.
- Ensuring parents/carers views, wishes and feelings are listened to and are involved in their child’s care and the learning and development support they receive at nursery. Parents and carers views, wishes and feelings are listened to during daily face to face feedbacks at the end of the day; conversations over Parent Zone; formal and informal conversations with their key person; ‘All About Me’ forms; Parent meetings and through over the telephone conversations and emails.
- Ensuring parents take an active role in decision making and contribute to assessments of their child using procedures such as ‘My Support Plans’; the observations of their child on Parents Zone and through parent meetings to discuss future goals for their child with their key person.
- Offering parents access to their children’s records and the opportunity to review their children’s progress on a regular basis with the Nursery staff and via Parents Zone.

- Ensuring that parents are aware of the Nursery policies and can access them. These are listed on the Nursery website and in hard copy outside the reception office.
- Offering parents/carers the opportunity to participate in curriculum, festivals and nursery events, if they wish. For example, reading stories in home languages, sharing interests and skills with staff and children, helping the setting celebrate their cultures and festivals through sharing traditions, crafts and songs.
- By ensuring that everyone who is connected to each child is welcomed, respected, and valued as a person who has an influence in the child's education, health and wellbeing.