



10.2 Parental Involvement

Policy Statement

The term “parent” is defined in Section 576 of the Education Act 1996 as: “All natural (biological) parents, whether they are married or not; Any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person.”

The Children 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'. (For a full explanation of who has parental responsibility, refer to the Pre-school Learning Alliance publication Safeguarding Children.)

Meadow Nursery School believes that children benefit most from early years education and care when parents and settings work together in partnership.

The nursery aims 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. The nursery also aims to support parents in their own continuing education and personal development.

Some parents are less well represented in early years 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, the nursery aims to ensure that all parents are included.

Procedures

The nursery has the means to ensure all parents are included - that may mean using different strategies for involving parents who work or live apart from their children.

The nursery consults with all parents to find out what works best for them.

The nursery ensures ongoing dialogue with parents to improve its knowledge of the needs of their children and to support their families.

The nursery informs all parents about how the setting is run and its policies, through access to written information and through regular informal communication. The nursery will sometimes check to ensure parents understand the information that is given to them.

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The nursery encourages and supports parents to play an active part in the governance and management of the setting.

The nursery will inform all parents on a regular basis about their children's progress.

The nursery involves parents in the shared record keeping about their children - either formally or informally – and ensure parents have access to their children's online developmental records.

The nursery provides opportunities for parents to contribute their own skills, knowledge and interests to the activities of the setting.

Where appropriate the nursery will inform parents about relevant conferences, workshops and training.

The nursery will consult with parents about the times of meetings to avoid excluding anyone.

The nursery will 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 (on request).

The nursery holds meetings in venues that are accessible and appropriate for all.

The nursery welcomes the contributions of parents, in whatever form these may take.

The nursery will inform all parents of the systems for registering queries, complaints or suggestions and we check to ensure these are understood. All parents have access to our written complaints procedure.

The nursery provides 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.

Further Guidance

Other useful Pre-school Learning Alliance publications

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Complaint Investigation Record (2015)

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023)

This policy was adopted at a meeting of the Meadow Nursery School Parents' Association Committee	
Held on	31 st March 2014
Policy reviewed	September 2025
Date to be reviewed	September 2027
Signed by Chair	
Name	Samantha Foster-Kennedy
Signed by Nursery Manager	
Name	Debbie Hill

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