PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS AND CARERS

(EYFS: 1.10, 3.27, 3.72, 3.73)

At Little Cherubs Nursery & Preschool we believe that in order for children to receive quality care and early learning that suits their individual needs, parents and staff need to work together in a close partnership. We welcome parents as partners and support a two-way sharing of information that helps establish trust and understanding. We are committed to supporting parents in an open and sensitive manner to include them as an integral part of the care and early learning team within the nursery.

To ensure all staff are able to keep a professional relationship with parents/carers we will not permit staff to undertake any outside business activities, whether paid or unpaid, or take on any other work outside working hours, where we consider that this is in conflict with our interests for example: working or babysitting for parents whose children attend the nursery.

The key person system supports engagement with all parents and will use strategies to ensure that all parents can contribute to their child's learning and development. Parents contribute to initial assessments of children's starting points on entry and they are kept well informed about their children's progress. Parents are encouraged to support and share information about their children's learning and development at home. The key person system ensures all practitioners use effective, targeted strategies and interventions to support learning that match most children's individual needs.

Our policy is to:

- Recognise and support parents as their child's first and most important educators and to welcome them into the life of the nursery
- Build confidence and encourage parents to trust their own instincts and judgement regarding their own child
- Welcome all parents into the nursery at any time and provide an area where parents can speak confidentially with us as required.
- Provide opportunities for parents to socialise through picnics and Christmas party events and outings
- Ensure nursery documentation and communications are in a format to suit individual parent's needs, e.g. Braille, multi-lingual, electronic communications
- Ensure that all parents are aware of the nursery's policies and procedures. A parent information pack will be provided, and our full policy documents will be available to parents at all times *in the main hallway and nursery office also main policies on the nursery website
- Maintain regular contact with parents to help us to build a secure and beneficial working relationship for their children
- Create opportunities for parents to talk to other adults in a secure and supportive environment through such activities as open days, parents' evenings and our 'Friends of Little Cherubs Nursery & Preschool' meetings where we discuss learning in the nursery and at home, talk to other adults, discuss relevant topics and any training opportunities
- Provide verbal feedback to parents regarding their child's day e.g. sleep, mealtimes and nappy changes and their personnel achievements.
- Inform parents about nursery's range and types of activities and experiences provided for children, the daily routines of the settle
- Inform parents of events through regularly distributed newsletters, notice boards and the nursery website.
- Operate a key person system to enable parents to establish a close working relationship with a named practitioner and to support two-way information sharing about each child's individual needs both in nursery and at home. Parents are given the name of the key person of their child and their role when the child starts.

- Inform parents on a regular basis about their child's progress and involve them in the shared record keeping. Parents' evenings will be held at least twice a year. The nursery will consult with parents about the times of meetings to avoid excluding anyone
- Parents/Carers have access to their child's learning journey using the Parent Zone App and are encouraged to contribute to children's learning through sharing observations, interests and experiences from home. This may also be shared verbally, sharing photographs or in written form
- Consider and discuss all suggestions from parents concerning the care and early learning of their child and nursery operation
- Provide opportunities and support for all parents to contribute their own skills, knowledge and interests to the activities of the nursery
- Inform all parents of the systems for registering queries, compliments, complaints or suggestions, and to check that these systems are understood by parents.
- Make sure all parents have access to our written complaints procedure
- Share information about the Early Years Foundation Stage, young children's learning in the nursery, how parents can further support learning at home and where they can access further information
- Provide a written contract between the parent(s) and the nursery regarding conditions of acceptance and arrangements for payment
- Respect the family's religious and cultural backgrounds and beliefs and to accommodate any special requirements wherever possible and practical to do so
- Inform parents how the nursery supports children with special educational needs and disabilities
- Find out the needs and expectations of parents. These will be obtained through regular feedback via questionnaires and suggestion. These are then evaluated by the nursery to promote nursery practice, policy and staff development.
- Seek permission from parents/carers before involving outside agencies.
- Share a regular two-way flow of information with other carers', nursery settings and schools.
- Welcome nursing mothers. The nursery will make available a private area whenever needed to offer space and privacy to nursing mothers.