

Parental Partnership Policy



Ballinderry Nursery Unit

‘Parents are the child’s first educator and have an important role to play in pre-school life’
(Curricular Guidance for Pre-School Education)

As a Nursery we believe we are partners with parents in the education of their child. Our aim is to support and enhance the development of all the children and to value the contribution parents make to their child’s learning. The Nursery Staff are available to provide support and guidance to parents as educators. By sharing information about the welfare and education of the children, this can be used to promote the development of each and every individual child. It is hoped that through regular formal and informal contact with parents, they will gain insight and understanding with regard to the learning that takes place in the Nursery environment. We strive to establish strong relationships between staff and parents and form firm partnerships between home and school.

Initial contact:

Prospective parents are invited, through local press and advertising, to visit Ballinderry Primary School and Nursery Unit on a specific date to find out more about the school. If a child is allocated with a place at Ballinderry Nursery Unit they receive a Nursery Information Pack. Parents and the child will be invited to the nursery in June to meet their teacher and nursery assistant and familiarise themselves with the environment. Parents are also encouraged to share in their child’s first day at nursery by joining them for the 1 hour session. During this time the child can be photographed* playing with their parent for display on the board and memories in their scrapbook at the end of the year. If parents or the school feel it would be beneficial a home visit can be arranged to discuss a child’s individual needs if necessary.

*Prior written parental permission is obtained.

To help keep our parents involved in their children's learning we:

- Place the weekly planning on the 'Parent's Notice Board' to keep parents informed of what the potential learning for the week is so that they build upon at home. Long Term planning for the term is also on display
- Monthly news sheets are given out to help keep parents informed with what the children are doing; learning can then be consolidated at home. This helps parents become involved in their child's learning process. This includes any other information that parents may need to know, for example requests for any items we may need for the nursery and a copy of the rhymes and songs we will be enjoying during the month.
- There are two parent interviews during the year; one in October/November when the children have settled in, and another in the second term. A Transition Report will be sent to parents to June which they are welcome to discuss with the teacher.
- The Principal and teacher are always available and approachable should parents need help, advice or information concerning their child.
- A 'Parent's Notice Board' is on display in the hall way providing useful information and some information for parents e.g. a policy file, behaviour management support file and speech and language support information.
- Parents are invited to give help or share a skill during a topic e.g. when learning about "People who Help Us" a parent who is a nurse/hairdresser may be invited.
- We have a 'bring a grown up to nursery' day each year when a significant adult in a child's life can enjoy a morning in the nursery with their child to share in their learning.
- A school website has been set up to allow parents to enjoy looking at the photo gallery with their child to see the activities they have been doing and see some of their friends. The website also keeps parents informed about school events through the calendar and whole school newsletters.
- A lending library for parents and children has been set up so that children can borrow books for an unlimited period to share at home. There are is a wide selection of parent books which can also be borrowed. This also gives parents a chance to meet with each other and develop relationships.
- Suggestion box in hallway
- Parent Volunteer Scheme-Parents are invited to support in a variety of ways e.g. trips, gardening, snack, story telling

- Marvin the monkey is our nursery friend. He goes home each weekend with someone in the class. This allows parents to enjoy some time with their child and help them to share what they have been doing at the weekend I the book to show to their friends. Parents are asked to encourage their child to take responsibility for Marvin when he is in their care.
- Parent/carer coffee mornings throughout the nursery year to allow parents to build up relationships with other parents and develop friendships.
- Additional strategies may be put in place to support a child with individual needs e.g. Home/school packs to support an area of learning/development, photos of the children in the class to help with naming peers or an individual behaviour system in line with parents to support challenging behaviour at home.

Ways in which Parents can help:

All children are different and some are naturally more independent than others. Helping your child to be as independent as possible before he/she goes to Nursery is very important. Independence develops confidence and the child who is independent and confident will deal much better with life than the child who has to depend on someone else for his/her every need.

- Talk to your child in a positive way about the Nursery for example discuss how the nursery is a happy place, that new friends will be found, that there are lovely toys to play with as well as fun games and stories.
- Familiarise your child with the names of the Nursery Teacher and Nursery Assistant.
- Encourage your child to be independent – dress and undress.
- Make sure s/he can ask to go to the toilet and can use the toilet properly, remembering to flush the toilet and to wash and dry hands after use. 'Accidents' can happen and we are equipped to deal with the situation in a quiet and sympathetic manner. (See Intimate Care Policy)
- While at Nursery each child will have their own picture symbol which can be found on his/her own coat peg and in specific areas around the room. Make your child familiar with this as it will help them identify anything that may belong to him/her and to recognise his/her own names.
- Make sure staff know of any particular fear, allergies, medical or family problems that might stop your child from settling in quickly.

All this information will be treated in the strictest confidence and can be invaluable in helping us to know and understand your child.

- Although we do not encourage children to bring their own toys. However, if your child needs the security of a special 'comfort' toy during the settling in periods this is accommodated.

S.Swan

January 2015

Policy to be reviewed January 2017