

HOLY FAMILY PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

NURSERY UNIT PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY

Aim

It is the policy of our Nursery to welcome parents in to the school at all times and to initiate a 'Partnership' between the adults in the home and the adults in the school. This partnership will be founded on the following beliefs:

- A partnership that acknowledges the parent as the child's first educator.
- A partnership that reflects a two way process with knowledge, information and trust flowing freely both ways, thus bridging the gap between home and school.
- A partnership that enables parents to understand how they can best share in, and contribute to their child's education.
- A partnership that allows parents to feel involved with their child's learning abilities as they come to realise the Nursery curriculum.
- A partnership that allows for a wider understanding of each other's needs and beliefs.
- A partnership that creates as many different opportunities as possible to enable parents and staff to support each other.

Implementation

There are a range of ways in which this policy will be implemented and these will include the following:

Before the child starts school

- Home visits
- Prospectus available
- Open day for parents and children
- School booklet
- Pre-nursery information evening
- 'Help us get to know your child' questionnaire
- A sympathetic admissions procedure involving parents

After the child has started school

- Informal daily meetings
- Formal parent/teacher meetings in Term 1 and Term 3

- Arranging flexible times for parents meetings to accommodate working parents
- Monthly newsletter
- Parents' Notice Board - details of nursery curriculum
- Christmas Concert
- Providing information about current nursery topics and events
- Using the nursery library to encourage parent and child to read together
- Photographs to record every day and special events
- DELTA programme
- Selection of information leaflets/reading material available in entrance hall
- Fundraising initiatives
- Encouraging parents to join in and help with nursery outings
- Providing time to talk to parents
- Liaising with other agencies and supporting parents
- Visits by parents with special expertise/occupations eg nurse, postman
- Written end of year report
- Liaison with primary 1 teacher to ensure smooth transition
- Parents' survey inviting comments and suggestions

Staff Development

In order to ensure that staff have the relevant skills, understandings and dispositions to engage parents across this range of activities, it is important that appropriate staff development activities are undertaken on an ongoing basis. These staff development activities will be provided in line with the School Development Plan priorities.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy will be monitored and evaluated by the nursery co-ordinator on an ongoing basis. It will also be monitored and evaluated by the KS1 Vice Principal and Principal on a periodic basis.

Review

This policy will be formally reviewed by January 2009. Responsibility for the review rests with the nursery co-ordinator and the KS1 vice Principal.