

**Moulton Pre-School – Working in partnership with parents policy**

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# Parental Partnership

***Moulton Pre-school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults at all times and expects everybody working within this setting to share this commitment.***

## Policy statement

We believe that children benefit most from early years education and care when parents and settings work together in partnership.

Our aim is 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. We also aim 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, we will ensure all parents are included.

When we refer to ‘parents’ we mean both mothers and fathers; these include both natural or birth parents as well as step-parents and parents who do not live with their children, but have contact with them and play a part in their lives. ‘Parents’ also includes same sex parents as well as foster parents.

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.

**Working in partnership with parents and other agencies**

We believe that families are central in all services we provide for young children. They are involved in all aspects of their child’s care, their views are actively sought and they are actively involved in the running of the setting in various ways.

We work in partnership with local and national agencies to promote the well-being of all children.

# Families

* Parents are provided with written information about the setting, including the setting’s safeguarding actions and responsibilities under the Prevent Duty
* Parents are made to feel welcome in the setting; they are greeted appropriately, there is adult seating and provision for refreshment.
* Every effort is made to accommodate parents who have a disability or impairment.
* The expectations we make on parents are made clear at the point of registration.
* There is a clear expectation that parents will participate in settling their child at the commencement of a place according to an agreed plan.
* There is sufficient opportunity for parents to share necessary information with staff and this is recorded and stored to protect confidentiality.
* Key persons support parents in their role as the child’s first and most enduring educators.
* Key persons regularly meet with parents to discuss their child’s learning and development and to share concerns if they arise.
* Key persons work with parents to carry out an agreed plan to support a child’s special educational needs.
* Key persons work with parents to carry out any agreed tasks where a child protection plan is in place.
* According to the nature of the setting, there is provision for families to be involved in activities that promote their own learning and well-being.
* Parents are involved in the social and cultural life of the setting and actively contribute.
* As far as possible the service is provided in a flexible way to meet the needs of parents without compromising the needs of children.
* Parents are involved in regular assessment of their child’s progress, including the progress check at age two, as per procedure 09.15 Progress check at age two.
* There are effective means for communicating with parents on all relevant matters and 10.2 Complaints procedure for parents and service users is referred to when necessary.
* Every effort is made to provide an interpreter for parents who speak a language other than English and to provide translated written materials.
* Information about a child and their family is kept confidential within the setting. The exception to this is where there is cause to believe that a child may be suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm, or where there are concerns regarding their child’s development that need to be shared with another agency. Parental permission will be sought unless there are reasons not to, to protect the safety of the child.
* Parental consent is sought to administer medication, take a child for emergency treatment, take a child on an outing and take photographs for the purposes of record keeping.
* Parents’ views are sought regarding changes in the delivery of the service
* Parents are actively encouraged to participate in decision making processes via a parent forum.
* There are opportunities for parents to take active roles in supporting their child’s learning in the setting: informally through helping out or activities with their child, or through structured projects engaging parents and staff in their child’s learning.

# Agencies

* Information shared by other agencies (third party information) is also kept in confidence and not shared without consent from that agency.
* When working in partnership with staff from other agencies, individuals are made to feel welcome in the setting and professional roles are respected.
* Staff follow the protocols for working with agencies, for example on child protection.
* Staff from other agencies do not have unsupervised access to the child they are visiting in the setting and do not have access to any other children during their visit.
* Staff do not casually share information or seek informal advice about any named child/family.
* We consult with and signpost to local and national agencies who offer a wealth of advice and information promoting staff understanding of issues facing them in their work and who can provide support and information for families. For example, ethnic/cultural organisations, drug/alcohol agencies, welfare rights advisors or organisations promoting childcare and early education, or adult education.

**Schools**

* Settings work in partnership with schools to assist children’s transition as per procedure 09.14 Prime times – transition to school, and share information as per procedure 07.6 Transfer of records.
* The setting manager actively seeks to forge partnership with local schools with the aim of sharing best practice and creating a consistent approach.