

Parent Partnership Policy

Statement of intent

Little Sunbeams Pre-school aim to work in partnership with parents based on establishing trusting and respectful relationships with two-way flow of communication to meet the child's needs and achieve the best possible outcomes for all.

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 pre-school.

Some parents are less well represented in early years' pre-schools; 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.

'Parental responsibility' is *all the rights, duties, powers and responsibilities and authority which by law a parent of a child has in relation to the child and his property.*

Parental Behaviour

Aims

We believe staff, parents/carers and Pre-school children are entitled to a safe and protective environment in which the Pre-school conducts itself. Behaviour that will cause harassment, alarm or distress to users of the premises is contrary to the aims of the Pre-school.

We expect parents and carers to show respect and concern for others by: -

1. supporting the respectful ethos of our Pre-school by setting a good example in their own speech and behaviour towards all members of the Pre-school community; Please refer to our Code of Conduct
2. working together with staff for the benefit of children. This includes approaching your child's keyperson, manager, parent representative or committee chair to resolve any issues of concern and to discuss and clarify specific events in order to bring about a positive solution
3. correcting own child's behaviour, especially in public where it could otherwise lead to conflict, aggressive or unsafe behaviour;
4. respecting the Pre-school environment, including keeping the Pre-school tidy by not littering;
5. respecting the safety of others, including not bringing dogs or other pets onto the Pre-school site.

In order to support a peaceful and safe Pre-school environment, we will not tolerate: -

1. disruptive behaviour which interferes with the operation of the Pre-school, or any other part of the pre-school grounds;
2. attempts to gain entry to any part of the premises in disregard of procedure or without permission and appropriate supervision
3. using loud and/or offensive language or displaying temper;
4. damaging or destroying Pre-school property;
5. smoking and consumption of alcohol or other drugs or accessing the school site whilst intoxicated
6. using a mobile phone or camera whilst on the pre-school premises

We will not tolerate threatening, abusive or insulting words and behaviour by people attending the Pre-school. Physical attacks and threatening behaviour, abusive or insulting language to staff, Committee, parents and carer's, children and other users of the preschool premises will result in suspension or in some cases permanent exclusion. This also includes abusive and insulting language used on phones or any written communication.

Separated/Divorced Parents

We recognise that while the parents of some children may be divorced or estranged, both have a right to be informed of and involved in their child's educational process. We also recognise that parents who are estranged or divorced may disagree regarding the education of the child, and/or may attempt to limit one another's access to their child. Despite such estrangement, both parents are welcomed and encouraged to participate in the child's education.

Parents are presumed to have joint custody of the child, absent of a court order or written agreement between the parents denying or limiting custody for either parent. The parent with whom the child resides is presumed to be the resident parent. If estranged or divorced parents both claim to be the resident parent the parent who enrolled the child will be presumed to be the resident parent until a court order or written agreement between the parties, identifying the resident parent, is provided to the pre-school. A parent will only be prevented from participating in his/her child's education if a court order (e.g., divorce decree, custody order, or restraining order) specifically denies visitation rights. In the case of parents having shared residence the parent who registered their child with us would be our first point of contact.

Progress reports and children's records

Both parents have the right to have access to their child's Tapestry online journal and receive progress reports.

Participation in meetings.

Both parents are welcome, and encouraged, to participate in Key Person meetings, Individual Educational Program team meetings, and any other conference called by us regarding the child's education. If the parents are separated or divorced, the resident parent is expected to share

scheduling information with the non-resident parent. We will provide scheduling information to the non-resident parent only if we receive a written request to do so.

Educational decisions.

In the event the parents are unable to agree with one another on decisions regarding their child's educational program, including, but not limited to, placement and consent to evaluation and services, the resident parent's decision will be binding on both parents unless a court order requires otherwise. In the event the educational decision relates to services provided pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the educational decisions, and the parents' rights and responsibilities, will be pursuant to the statutory requirements

Visitation with the child during pre-school hours

Generally, both parents have the right to attend pre-school programs/concerts/plays etc. open to parents. The parent's right is not negated solely by the fact that he/she is the non-resident parent. Such visitation will be limited only if the setting has received a copy of a court order specifically restricting the parent's access to the child by: 1) denying the parent's visitation rights; or 2) requiring supervision of the parent's visitation with the child. The pre-school does not have the responsibility to supervise visitation between a parent and his/her child and, thus, will not allow parent access in the pre-school setting.

When visiting the pre-school, all parents are required to comply with all pre-school policies and not take any action which disrupts the educational process. If a parent takes any action which the pre-school considers to be inappropriate or disruptive to the educational process, he/she may be requested to leave and prohibited from returning.

Version	Changes made	Author	Date
1.0	Baseline version	Amanda	23 rd October 2017