



EYFS: The Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements
1.1, 1.2, 3.27 & 3.73

Organisation

3j.4 Parental Partnership

Policy Statement

- Auden Place Community Nursery believes 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.
- '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'*. (For a full explanation of who has parental responsibility, refer to the Pre-school Learning Alliance's *Child Protection Record* publication.)

Procedures

- From the onset we involve the parents in the setting. Our comprehensive settling in process includes settling in the family and not just the child (see policy 3j.3. Transitions for more details)
- Our first contact with the parent is showing them the nursery, then us coming to their house to meet with them and child
- We consult with all parents to find out what works best for them.
- We ensure ongoing and daily dialogue with parents to improve our knowledge of the needs of their children and to support their families.
- We inform all parents about how the setting is run and its policies through access to written information and through regular informal communication. We check to ensure parents understand the information that is given to them.
- We encourage and support parents to play an active part in the governance and management of the setting.
- We inform all parents on a daily, weekly and monthly basis about their children's progress. This is done verbally, electronically and through other media.
- We involve parents in the shared record keeping about their children - either formally or informally - and ensure parents have access to their children's written developmental records.
- We provide opportunities for parents to contribute their own skills, knowledge and interests to the activities of the setting.
- We inform parents about relevant conferences, workshops and training.



- We have weekly emails which are sent out, discussing what has happened in each room that week
- We hold two parent evenings a year. One of these evenings is to sit down with key workers and discuss development, any concerns, interests, play focuses etc. (All key workers discuss with parents daily and would not leave it to parents evening if they had a concern, these evenings are a formality). The other parents evening is often a fun focussed evening, where staff set out activities and demonstrate to parents what type of activities we do with the children. We do these in the hope that parents will be more aware of what we do at nursery, and that they can take ideas home of how to interact with their children.
- We consult with parents about the times of meetings and provide childcare to avoid excluding anyone.
- We welcome the contributions of parents, in whatever form these may take.
- We provide opportunities for parents to learn about the curriculum offered in the setting and about young children's learning, in the setting and at home.
- We often go on outings further afield than the local area and ask for parents to accompany us.
- We attempt to involve parents in the record keeping of their child either formally or informally during admission stages and throughout their child's attendance at the nursery.
- We conduct regular stay and play sessions for parents to join in with nursery activities and learn with and alongside their children
- We ask parents to fill in 'wow sheets' of what they see their children doing at home, so that we can then include these interests and development in our nursery planning
- We have 'characters' in each room which the children are able to take home. These characters then play a role in children bringing their home life into nursery, marrying the two environments.
- We record all children's daily formalities on eyLOG, our online system for children's records. This records sleeping patterns, eating, drinking, and what the child has enjoyed doing today. This record is emailed to the parent everyday.

When things go wrong

We cannot guarantee that things will not occasionally go wrong, or that as a parent you may not be unhappy about something, despite our best efforts to avoid this. But what we do pride ourselves on is taking swift action to rectify the situation and keep our relationships with parents positive.

The best way forward, when something isn't up to your expectations, is to communicate with us swiftly and clearly about your concerns. Speaking to staff and making them aware of the situation is obviously the best way to make steps towards improvement.

(Please see policy 3a.9- Making a Complaint for a more detailed breakdown on how to deal with complaints if you feel that the response from staff does not satisfy your concern)



Unacceptable behaviour from parents/carers

It is central to the community philosophy of the Nursery that all adults should be very positive at all times in front of the children, towards each other and towards the nursery. Any issues or problems arising with children, staff or parents should be discussed in private with the management team of the nursery, or sent by email to info@audenplace.co.uk. It is not acceptable or necessary for any parent or member of staff to make openly negative comments about other parents, staff or children in any other form.

Unacceptable verbal behaviour includes any form of racist comments, verbal bullying, verbal aggression, and swearing towards or about the children, staff or other parents. Should any of these actions be witnessed or reported, the Manager or the Management Committee will take action to put a stop to it. Unacceptable physical behaviour will be dealt with in the same way.

If this behaviour cannot be resolved through discussion there are two steps that can be taken:

1. We will refuse the parent in question entry to the nursery, by only allowing drop off and pick up to be carried out by the other parent or a third party. If this is difficult for a family, then the parent can be greeted at the door and handover will take place there, rather than inside the rooms.
2. The family as a whole can be excluded from the nursery.

In compliance with the Welfare Requirements, the following documentation is in place:

- Admissions policy.
- Complaints procedure.
- Record of complaints.
- Developmental records of children.