



# Nursery Home Visits Policy

## Esh Winning Primary School

At Esh Winning Primary School we understand that starting Nursery education can be daunting for everyone involved, therefore, we want to do all we can to make the transition process from home to school as stress free and enjoyable as possible.

Our Nursery staff will work in partnership with parents/carers as they are the child's first educator and this will help ensure the best outcomes for each child. Parenting has a critical impact on children's emotional, behavioural and educational development, and their health and wellbeing. All staff respect and recognise the diverse strengths of parents/carers and the skills that they bring to parenting and the knowledge and understanding of their child. The first step of this partnership is a home visit for every family before a child starts in the Nursery.

### **AIM:**

- To provide an opportunity for a new child and family to meet the Nursery teacher in their own home prior to the child starting at the setting.
- The purpose of the visit is to help the child, family and Nursery teacher get to know more about each other in the home environment where the child usually feels most relaxed.

We recognise the following benefits of home visiting:

- Building of relationships with parents/carers and children.
- Links the child's learning in both the Nursery and the home.
- Encourages a greater understanding of families' culture, language and lifestyle.
- Supports the gathering of information about the child, which assists with a smoother transition into the Nursery.
- Assists parents/carers and staff to observe and gain an understanding of the child's skills and interests.

### **PROCEDURE:**

- Parents/carers will be notified of the visit in advance and a convenient time arranged.
- Esh Winning staff will always wear their ID badges and take the school's mobile phone.
- A timetable of visits will be left with the school office staff.

- A home visit will always be attended by two members of staff, the Nursery Teacher and another staff member. This is, usually, the Parent Support Advisor or a Nursery TA.
- The staff will make their own way to and way back from the family's home, and this will take place during normal working hours wherever possible.
- The Nursery Teacher will use the home visit as a means of talking to the family, gaining information about the child and answering any questions the family may have. There will be paperwork completed during this time, including contact details and toileting care plans. The additional staff member will take a small selection of toys and books for the child to play with whilst undertaking an initial observation of the child's stage of development.
- Our Nursery booklet will be shared with parents/carers and any queries arising from it answered. The booklet will be left with the parent/carer in order to complete in their own time, however we do request that this is returned to school as soon as possible. The next part of the settling in process at the Nursery will also be explained. The session times will be discussed and confirmed including the offer of an additional session.
- A date and time for the child's play visit and first Nursery session will also be confirmed.
- The staff will stay together during the home visit and would not expect to be left alone with the child during the visit.
- We would not expect a home visit to last longer than 30 minutes maximum.
- Staff will be conscious of the fact that they are guests in the family's home and will treat all families with a high level of respect and regard during the visit.
- If a home visit is not possible, parents/carers will be invited to visit the Nursery at a mutually agreed time to meet the Nursery staff and to complete the relevant paperwork.
- If school-based staff are aware of special circumstances or arrangements for home visiting, these must be discussed with the Headteacher in advance who will decide on the necessary additional arrangements required to carry out the visit.

We will work with parents/carers in an open and honest way. When gathering information we will ensure we comply with the Data Protection Act (2018), respect parent/carer confidentiality and ensure all personal information and records are kept securely.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the local authority's "Lone Worker" policy.

This policy was shared with Early Years' teachers, teaching assistants and governors. This policy can also be accessed through the school's website. The next review of this policy is in 3 years' time in 2025 with the full Governing Body.