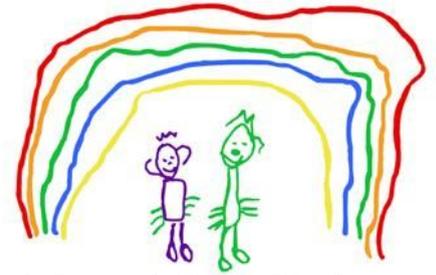


Parent Partnership Policy

Statement of Intent

We believe that children benefit the most from pre-school education and care when parents and pre-schools work together in partnership to have a positive effect on children's learning and development. In this policy, when we say "Parents" we mean the child's parents, legal guardians, close relatives or carers.



Magdalen Gates
Preschool

Our Aim

- To support parents as their child's first and most important educators.
- To involve parents in the life of the pre-school and their children's education.
- To support parents in their own continuing education and personal development.

In addition:

- We are committed to on-going 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 group is run and its policies. We check to ensure parents understand the information which is given to them;
- We provide opportunities for parents to contribute their own skills, knowledge and interests to the activities of the group eg about family or cultural celebrations
- We provide information about opportunities for being involved in the pre-school in ways which are accessible to parents with basic skills needs, or those for whom English is an additional language;
- We welcome parent's comments, suggestions and contributions
- We inform all parents of the systems for registering queries, complaints or suggestions and check to ensure these are understood. All parents have access to our written complaints procedure.
- Parents are welcome to spend time in preschool eg reading a

story or doing gardening, or to get involved in any of our parent partnership initiatives (see below).

- We will continue to evaluate our progress and consider ways in which to improve communication with parents
- We work with parents in a caring and supportive way when they have difficulties leaving their children at preschool
- We will keep our noticeboards up to date with relevant information for families about preschool life
- All families, including children, will be asked their views once a year in our user questionnaire. We will report results back and tell families what we have changed as a result of their views.
- A copy of our Ofsted report, Development Plan, policies and their own child's learning story are available to parents to look at.
- All families will be given a copy of our Parent Partnership Policy

Our Parent Partnership Initiatives

1. Key person – each child is assigned their own key person, and regular informal communication with the key person or other staff means parents can be kept informed of their child's progress
2. Management Committee Trustees – parents are invited to become a trustee of the charity Magdalen Gates Preschool CIO. Meetings are generally held in evenings in an accessible venue.
3. Formal communication methods – we issue parents with a handbook prior to their child starting preschool, parents also receive a welcome letter, a letter introducing them to the management committee and a letter introducing relevant policies to them. We offer support to parents who may have difficulties understanding documentation
4. Key person meetings – twice yearly meetings are arranged between the parents and their key person
5. Learning Journey folders – children's achievements, photos, progress, next steps etc are contained in the learning journey which is accessible to parents at any time
6. Rainbow Cafe – our once a half-term free cafe for parents and carers where we promote a love of stories and encourage parents to make something to take home to talk about with the

children.

7. Maggie and Max – the preschool bears go home with one boy and one girl each week and children and their parents look after them for the weekend and can share their adventures through an entry in their diary.
8. Activity “Stay and Play” sessions – where parents can stay and play for the first 15 minutes of regular sessions. We introduce these after Christmas as children have settled in by then.
9. Dads Day and Mums Day – special days to celebrate the role of Dads and Mums and other carers in their children’s learning and development.
10. Fundraising Activities – parents are invited to contribute to fundraising in activities such as, raffles, quiz and chips, school photos, bake sales
11. Newsletters – regular monthly newsletters about what is happening at preschool by email - paper copies on request
12. Comment Tree – parents can add a comment or suggestion on a leaf, to our comment tree in the cloakroom
13. “What we have been doing” photograph slideshow – displayed on the TV in the cloakroom so parents can see what their children have been doing.
14. An “All About Me” sheet is filled in by parents and children prior to entry to preschool to enable us to find out as much as possible about the child before they start Preschool
15. Parents get involved in the garden through the RHS “Get your Grown-ups growing” program.
16. A “New Baby Bag” is available to lend to families whose preschool child has a new baby sibling
17. Rainbow Readers - encouraging parents or carers, especially Dads, to come in and read stories to the children
18. Maths for Me – our new termly stay and play session with a focus on simple maths, number and shape activities to share with parents and which parents could easily repeat at home or when out and about.

Policy Updated September 2017