

Parental/Carer Involvement in the Nursery



Fraserburgh South Park Nursery

2023/2024

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 29 (Goals of education): *Children's education should develop each child's personality, talents and abilities to the fullest. It should encourage children to respect others, human rights and their own and other cultures. It should also help them learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people. Children have a particular responsibility to respect the rights their parents, and education should aim to develop respect for the values and culture of their parents. The Convention does not address such issues as school uniforms, dress codes, the singing of the national anthem or prayer in schools. It is up to governments and school officials in each country to determine whether, in the context of their society and existing laws, such matters infringe upon other rights protected by the Convention.*

Rationale

"Parents and carers are the biggest influence on a child's development, particularly in the early years. Staff and parents sharing information is key to the best possible start for children. We don't just want children and young people to survive in this changing world, we want them to thrive in it."

Curriculum for Excellence: Learning at the Early Level - Information for Parents and Carers

When referring to 'parents' this means both mothers and fathers; these include both natural or birth parents as well as stepparents 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/adoptive parents. We aim to involve all parents.

Aims

At Fraserburgh South Park Nursery, we believe that children benefit most from Early Learning and Childcare (ELCC) when parents and nurseries work together in partnership.

The 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 nursery. Supporting parental engagement in ELCC is an effective way to make a difference to children's lives and outcomes. This policy states how we can work together to support and enhance the development of the child and to respect, understand and value the contributions of the parent to the child's learning.

At Fraserburgh South Park Nursery we aim to:

1. Ensure all parents are *included and involved* in our ELCC setting.
2. *Consult and collaborate* with parents regularly to improve our ELCC setting.
3. Promote a *welcoming ethos* which encourages *ongoing dialogue*.

4. Provide regular and effective *communication*.
5. Provide regular updates on their *children's progress and development*.
6. Encourage parents to *contribute* towards our ELCC setting.

Aims in Action

1. Ensure all parents are included and involved in our ELCC setting

- Parents/carers are invited to important events in the school/nursery life.
- Prior to starting our ELCC setting, all children are invited to visit the nursery with their child.
- Each parent has the opportunity to become part of the Parent Council and/or Parent Teacher Association.
- Parents who are not the main carer of their child can request for information to be posted, emailed etc at any time or on a regular basis.
- ELCC policies are available on request and the main policies are available at the entrance.
- The physical environment is welcoming, relaxed and friendly.
- Parents are informed of fundraising events for South Park Nursery/School.
- Parents/carers are encouraged to join in with school fundraising efforts for the global community.
- Staff try to ensure that parents/carers from all sections of the community are involved in the life of the school.
- Termly 'stay & play' sessions are organised along with termly pancakes and profile sessions. Parents are also invited to share skills and bring pets into the nursery for example.

2. Consult and collaborate with parents regularly to improve our ELCC setting

- The Noticeboard displays the areas in which the nursery are currently working on, developing, and the progress being made towards this.
- Parents are consulted regarding long term changes to the ELCC setting, through newsletters, questionnaires, informal dialogue etc.
- Parents have the opportunity to be part of the Parent Council, whereby they support the work of the school.
- Parental questionnaires are sent out twice a year to collate views on strengths, and areas for development.
- Parent Helpers receive a questionnaire once a year asking them to summarise their experience and identify areas for improvement.
- A suggestion box is located at the entrance to gather feedback from the nursery community.

3. Promote a welcoming ethos which encourages ongoing dialogue

- We ensure that our ELCC setting is welcoming from the first contact a parent has with the ELCC setting whether by phone or visit.
- Nursery staff are available at the beginning and end of each session for informal questions/queries etc.
- Nursery staff are welcoming, friendly and approachable, ensuring parents feel comfortable to engage in dialogue/communication.
- Information on relevant outside organisations/agencies etc is displayed on the noticeboard.
- Nursery staff will communicate any concerns, changes to routine/behaviours etc immediately.
- New parents attend an induction meeting where they receive their induction pack which contains the nursery booklet other relevant information.
- Profile Folders have a 'home' section which parents are encouraged to contribute to on an ongoing basis - parents are also invited into the nursery or garden area to share profiles with their children.
- Profile Folders include an area for parents to comment on a regular basis.

4. Provide regular and effective communication

- A nursery newsletter is sent out at least once a term.
- The school website provides updated information on events, newsletters, policies etc.
- The nursery newsletter is placed in the entrance hall to the main school building.
- The noticeboard has information on planned events, weekly activities, upcoming events, weekly timetable and ways to become involved.
- The nursery handbook is given to each child when they start.
- Communication can be translated into a variety of different languages, upon request.
- Parents are encouraged to view the school website if they seek information about the school prior to visiting.
- The noticeboard is used to communicate last minute changes, up to date information.

5. Provide regular updates on their children's progress and development

- A formal parent afternoon/night appointment is available once a year.
- Parents can request additional appointments with nursery staff to discuss concerns.
- Profile folders are updated regularly and one week per term specifically available for parents to look at alongside their child in the nursery at any time. Parents are also encouraged to track and comment upon their child's progress by looking at their child's profile folder and taking them home monthly.
- Nursery staff will inform parents of any significant progress/changes/concerns immediately.
- We ensure that parents with any major concerns can see the Headteacher/Senior Practitioner as soon as possible.
- Children get work home regularly to keep parents abreast of progress.

- A book lending library operates within the school.
- Parents are regularly invited to take part in shared start and shared finish activities.

6. Encourage parents to contribute towards our ELCC setting

- Parents are encouraged to share skills/knowledge which link to forward planning displayed on the noticeboard.
- Parents are given basic guidance on working in the nursery when they volunteer regularly.
- Staff explain to parents how the learning is organised and managed in our nursery.
- Parents can volunteer to help with visits/trips etc.
- Parents and children are often asked to bring in 'items/experiences' etc from home to share with the class.
- Parents are asked to contribute towards forward planning, by sharing their child's interests, indicating expertise, resources they may have in order to contribute towards the learning experiences.

We recognise that parents differ in their ability to offer support. We accept participation on whatever level parents feel they can give it. No-one should ever be made to feel uncomfortable. The most valuable contribution parents can give us is commitment to their children's early learning and childcare.

COMPLAINTS/CONCERNS

In the first instance parents are asked to discuss their concerns with a member of the nursery team or the Early Years Senior Practitioner. Usually the nursery/school will be able to resolve the matter at this level. (If a member of staff is informed of the concerns, he/she will raise them with the Senior Practitioner or Headteacher).

Should matters not be resolved at this stage, the EYSP will advise the parent on how to proceed to the formal stage of the complaint's procedure. A copy of this procedure is available from the school office or from Aberdeenshire Council Website.

Other Relevant Websites and information

Parental involvement in <https://education.gov.scot/education-scotland/scottish-education-system/policy-for-scottish-education/developing-the-education-profession/parental-engagement-and-family-learning>

Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2006/8/contents>

Realising the Ambition, Being Me, (2020)

<https://education.gov.scot/media/3bjpr3wa/realisingtheambition.pdf>