

PARENT PARTNERSHIP POLICY

At Bushy Leaze we value and respect our partnership with parents, and recognise the important role it plays in helping children to develop strong foundations for learning. We believe that parents are a child's first teacher and aim to build upon what parents are already doing to support their child's learning and confidence.

All families are welcomed and valued at Bushy Leaze. We consider the physical environment, our personal attitudes, our approach and practices in order to ensure that all families feel included.

Working in partnership with parents is integral to what we do and is built around:

- Common aims
- Working together
- Complimentary expertise
- Mutual respect
- Open two-way communication

We ensure that the Centre is a part of the community and that services reflect the diverse needs of our families. We know that there may be obstacles to communication for some families where English is not their first language. Where possible, we provide information for parents in a range of languages. This includes the use of Google Translate and signposting parents to the EMTAS phone lines:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/emtas/supportinglanguages/emtas-phone-lines>

Parents are encouraged to participate in toddler groups, baby groups, stay and play sessions, and other special events. Fathers' involvement is valued and our 'Saturday Dads' group is well attended. We also ensure that families with children who have SEND are able to access groups, including our specialist 'Little Squirrels' and 'Bushy Tales' sessions. Families are enabled to get to know each other and the staff team, and to share in activities that promote learning and development.

We aim to build respectful relationships with parents which ensures information is communicated effectively between home and nursery. We value their expertise and the knowledge they have about their own lives and their own children. They know about their special ways, their needs and their previous experiences. Our starting point are home visits, which are a well established aspect of Centre provision. Ongoing communication through conversations, Tapestry, newsletters, parent consultations and Individual Education Plan meetings, helps parents and staff to work together to provide positive learning environments for every child. Transitions into nursery and onto school are carefully planned around the needs of each individual child, in partnership with parents.

Learning within the context of warm relationships is powerful. Our keyperson system enables children to feel secure and provides parents with their first point of contact. We create genuine time to talk with parents and they know that they are welcome to approach any member of staff with a query or concern.

Sharing children's progress with parents is done on a regular basis. Meetings are held to celebrate children's efforts and achievements and to discuss their next steps. Parental contributions, including posts on Tapestry, are highly valued as they help to build a more holistic picture of a child's development. We work in partnership with parents to support a positive home learning environment, as we know how important this is to support children's learning.

We understand that there are some barriers that prevent parental involvement and staff have the skills and expertise to support the most vulnerable families to improve outcomes for children. Partnership working with other agencies is strong and staff have the opportunity to make referrals or ask for advice from the Family Support Team, who are based on site.

Linked documents:
Information Sharing and Confidentiality Policy

Signature: *A.R. Davis*
Chair of Governors

Dated: *11/02/2025*

Next review due on: Spring 2028