Rathmore Primary School and Nursery Unit

Parental Involvement Policy

Date Ratified:	May 2023
Date of Review:	May 2024

This policy has been written following a consultation process, ratified by the Board of Governors and communicated to the school community as required. It will be monitored and reviewed as part of the school's policy review schedule.

Parental Involvement Policy

Article 3

The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.

Introduction

Our Nursery staff will aim to involve parents in their children's education and to value the contribution parents make to their children's learning. Our Nursery staff are also available to provide support and guidance to parents as educators.

Parents are invited to give help where practical and possible. This help varies from year to year depending on availability of the parents. Due to child protection the school is required to ensure all adults who regularly spend time in the school with the children are police checked. Any parent volunteering in the school on a regular basis will therefore be asked to complete an Access NI form; we appreciate your understanding in this matter.

Nursery staff are available to chat with parents informally in the mornings or afternoons when dropping off or picking up children. However, if a parent requires more than a couple minutes of time an appointment can be arranged after school.

Parents have representation on the school's Board of Governors and are welcome and encouraged to join the Parent Teacher Association.

Parents are encouraged to be involved in Rathmore Nursery in some of the following ways and have the following opportunities to:

- Attend an information meeting where they will find out about the curriculum, meet the Nursery staff and receive a Nursery Information Pack.

- Meet with the Nursery Teacher prior to commencing Nursery. This meeting presents an opportunity for parents to share any important information about their child. It also allows the child to visit the setting without other children present and to familiarise themselves with the Nursery.

- Complete an 'All About Me' booklet in June and fill out information about their child's interests and strengths and to add photographs of their family. Parents are encouraged to bring this into Nursery on their child's first day. This will then be used to begin their child's learning journal.

- Meet with the Nursery Teacher towards the end of October and again in March. A transition record will also be shared with parents in June. Parents are asked to contribute towards these records, these contributions are very much valued and enhance the record of a child's overall development and how this can be supported / extended.

- Parents play an important role during the settling in process and, if needed, are welcome in the classroom during the first few days to help their child settle.

- Parents are invited to send in any photos, drawings or anecdotes that celebrate their child's interests and achievements at home during the year. These will be added to their child's observation and assessment profile and/or learning journal. This will create a positive partnership between parents and Nursery staff in the observing and recording of children's achievements.

- Parents have access to their child's online learning portfolio via an app called Seesaw. Nursery staff upload various photos and videos of the learning taking place during the year, keeping parents informed of the curriculum and learning taking place.

- The Nursery is paperless and all notes (except those which require a signature) are now communicated via Seesaw.

- A Lending Library is in place so that children can borrow books and toys on a regular basis.

- Regular newsletters are provided to share important information about school and the learning taking place.

- Events are planned throughout the year to encourage parents into the classroom and to share their children's learning, for example Nativity Play, Nursery Celebration and Stay and Play days.