



PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS POLICY

Please note that throughout this document, where the term '*Parent*' is used, this also refers to carers/ guardians

INTRODUCTION

At Derby Montessori School, we promote the active participation of parents in the planning and development of our service. We encourage a close working relationship between staff and the parents of the children attending the setting. We strive to create an environment that encourages parents to be actively involved. We recognise that it is in the best interest of the child that parents and staff at Derby Montessori School work together in partnership to support children in early years care and education.

WHY PARTNERSHIP IS IMPORTANT

At Derby Montessori School we recognise that each and every one of us is a learner from birth. It is a child's parents that initially give each child the confidence and motivation to explore the world around them. All parents can enhance their child's development and learning. Parents provide a learning environment which is enduring and comprehensive and which operates beyond the child's day at school and provides continuity as the child moves from one class or setting to another. Parents are interested in their child's progress and development and are experts on their own child. Our early years practitioners and teachers are also interested in each child's progress and jointly bring a wealth of expertise in children's learning, development and education. Parents and members of staff thus share a joint interest in, and responsibility for, children's learning and development. Whilst bringing different perspectives and expertise both parents and practitioners are key people in building a child's self-esteem and dispositions to learning. Children feel more positive and confident about themselves and their learning when parents and members of staff work together in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

COMMUNICATING WITH PARENTS

Communication is a two-way process. There is information that we need from parents and information that parents need from us.

Information that we give to parents includes:

- Informal feedback on learning and development, including verbal feedback and short notes
- Formal feedback including Tapestry, reports, development reviews and the progress check at two.

- Information about accident, incidents and behaviour that has occurred during the session
- Information about the Montessori method, materials and approach
- How our setting operates, including opening hours, session hours, session costs and what your child needs to bring
- Information on how to access free places
- Policy documents and statements
- The results, findings and recommendations of inspections by external agents.
- Newsletters, with updates and reminders about what's going on.
- Information that we think you might find interesting e.g. articles/ magazines about children/Parenting

Information that we seek from Parents includes:

- Details about your child and family background
- Information including contact details of the parent(s)
- What your child's likes, dislikes, any particular interests or fears
- Medical information and allergies
- Any concerns about development or additional support your child might need
- Changes or significant events that may cause your child's behaviour or emotional state to change (long or short term)
- Discussion and input about your child's development review or next steps
- An email address or addresses to enable the majority of communication to be electronic.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS & DISABILITY

(Please refer to our SEND Policy)

OPEN DOOR POLICY

Parents are welcome to visit Derby Montessori School at any time and see it in operation. When parents visit, they usually sit and watch the session in progress to get the most realistic impression of how the session operates.

Parents are invited to become involved in the setting and are given opportunities to contribute their own skills, knowledge and interests to the activities. Parents also become parent helpers (DBS check, induction and training required) and support reading and craft activities.

A Parents Notice Board is provided and updated by staff members regularly. The main display is in the courtyard at Montessori House. To make all families welcome and feel a sense of belonging, images, posters, books and other resources reflect and celebrate the diversity of children and families.