

47. Working in Partnership with Agencies and Other Settings

Statement of intent

We work in partnership with local agencies to promote the well-being of all children. This includes both statutory and voluntary sector organisation and may include those offering health advice, support, education or safeguarding services.

Aim

Polesden Lacey Playschool appreciates the importance of effective and timely communication and the need to maintain appropriate levels of confidentiality when working with external agencies. We aim to work together with agencies and other settings to help meet the needs of the child and support them to reach their full potential.

Practice

- Polesden Lacey Playschool follows Surrey's Effective Families Resilience Guidance - Continuum of Need to act as soon as problems emerge, share information and provide effective, timely support to enable children and their families to overcome difficulties and become more resilient so that they can manage future life challenges independently.
- We will actively carry out research locally and nationally to source help and support for parent/guardians.
- We confirm the identification of any professionals and staff from partner agencies prior to allowing them access to the children in our care.
- Staff from other agencies do not have unsupervised access to the child they are visiting and do not have access to any other child/ren during their visit. We will seek your consent before any agency visit.
- When working in partnership with staff from other agencies, we make those individuals feel welcome in the setting and their professional roles are respected.
- We seek to build early working relationships with agencies and other settings to gain an understanding of how professionals can work together.
- Information shared by other agencies with us is regarded as third-party information. This is kept in confidence and not shared without consent from that agency.
- Information regarding a child or family will only be shared on a strict need to know basis.
- We follow the protocols for working with agencies, e.g. on child protection.
- Our staff do not share information or seek informal advice about any named child/family.
- When necessary, we consult with local agencies who offer a wealth of advice and information for parents e.g. health, welfare rights advice, adult education.
- When necessary we consult with local agencies who offer advice and information that help the team develop an understanding of related issues and provide additional support.

Policy Review

As part of Polesden Lacey Playschool monitoring of working in partnership with agencies and other settings this policy will be subject to periodic review.

Policy adopted by: Ellie Pragnell (Chair), Caroline O'Leary (Manager)

Date: September 24

Policy Review Date: September 25