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**Canterbury Nursery School
and Centre for Children and Families**
Basil Street,
Bradford, BD5 9HL
Executive Head Teacher: Duncan Jacques
Head of School: Jackie Bracewell

Policy

Family Support

Statutory or Non Statutory	Non Statutory
Frequency of Review	Every 2 years
Last Review	April 2018
Next Review	April 2020
Website	Yes

Canterbury Vision

At Canterbury, children and their families are at the heart of an encouraging and challenging environment, where everyone recognizes and celebrates differences, actively communicates the importance of learning and believes everyone can achieve.

Family Support Policy

Definition of Family Support

The terms 'family', 'support' and 'family support' can be defined in many and varied ways. A useful definition produced by the Audit commission (1994, p.39) argues for a very wide definition in stating that family support as a social care practice can include:

'Any activity or facility provided by either statutory agencies or by community groups or individuals, aimed at providing advice and support to parents to help them bringing up their children'.

For Canterbury Nursery School and Centre for Children and Families family support covers a range of services and activities that families can access at different times of their lives depending on their needs. The range of activities and services includes courses or training for parents to improve their self esteem, confidence and skills, support in accessing quality services for children and parents, groups on particular issues such as health information or managing behaviour, and individual support for children and their parents through one to one work, home visits or signposting to specialist services.

The Family support services provided are shaped by the needs of parents and carers living in the local area and we aim to provide a range of services that are responsive to the needs of individual families.

Rationale

- Bringing up a family is not an easy business
- Children do not come with an instruction booklet
- We believe all parents/ carers have the right to ask for help without feeling guilty or embarrassed or that they have failed
- We believe that parents/carers know their children best
- A good Family Support Service will enable parents/carers to ensure their children get the best out of life

Aims

We will:

- Work in partnership with parents/carers
- Recognise, value and respect the uniqueness of each family and their differing needs
- Work from a child-centred perspective – the welfare of the child is paramount
- Ensure that we meet statutory expectations and policies regarding confidentiality
- Aim to provide a range of family support services which families can access at different times depending on need
- Aim to record, monitor and evaluate all the work we do so that we can learn from our experiences and improve future services
- Aim to publicise the range of services available to families living in the Children's Centre Reach area
- Aim to provide a range of family support services in a range of locations based on what families say they want and need
- Aim to draw on the expertise of a range of professionals in order to provide a holistic service
- Work together with early years professionals in identifying family's needs
- It is the responsibility of everyone at the centre to be involved in the provision of family support

Objectives – how we do it

- Involve parents in decision making process
- Take into account family background, culture, religion etc.
- Keep accurate clear records which families have access to
- Publicise our services in a range of locations and formats to ensure that it is accessible to all
- Ensure that we keep abreast of developments in the field of family support by enabling workers to attend relevant training courses/conferences and have access to relevant professional journals and other literature.
- Keep appointments and let families know if we need to cancel
- Liaise with other professionals when undertaking work with families where they have some involvement.
- Develop a range of services eg 1-1 work within the home, groups, parent and toddler groups, job/ benefits advice
- Ensuring 'high quality' service – welcoming/warm
- Ensure families are aware and involved in the development of policies relating to confidentiality.
- Continually review our policy and practices as we develop integrated services.

Early years practitioners will ensure that their interactions with parents help to identify and provide family support.

Confirmation the Policy in respect of Canterbury Nursery School and Centre for Children and Families has been discussed by the Governing Body

Signed by:

Chair of Governors: Date:

Executive Head / Head of School: Date

Agreed at the Governing Body Meeting on: