

## Introduction

As your child enters school, we aim to make the transition as smooth as possible. Home Visits are just one of the elements of the transition programme, whether your child is joining us from a Pre-School, Nursery School, Day Care or Playgroup.

Home visits are a key tool in building trusting relationships between Home and School and we believe, that they convey the message that what happens in the home environment with yourselves is an important part of your child's learning and development, and the visit underpin links between home and the school. We believe that Home Visits are the first step in establishing the home-school partnership.

Home Visits are an opportunity for Templewood Practitioners to learn about your child and your family, and for you as a family to learn more about the Templewood team, thus allowing you to feel confident in approaching the staff.

By coming to visit you in your home, we hope that you feel comfortable in sharing information freely, particularly concerning sensitive issues.

Please do not feel anxious about a home visit. We hope that you will take this opportunity to have a one to one discussion about your child in a familiar environment to you and your child. We are certainly not coming to see how clean your house is!

## Benefits of Home Visits

### For the Child:

- By seeing School staff in your home, the child see that you have a shared trust.
- Your child will be more relaxing in their home setting.



*'I liked it when my Teacher come to my house and she gave me a toy to look after for her.'*

Child who entered Templewood Nursery

### For the Parents/ Carers

- It's your chance to have a 1:1 conversation with the class Teacher to discuss any information you feel would help your child to settle in quickly (You are the experts).
- Staff can gather information in a confidential way thus informing them of any additional needs or concerns from the start.
- It's your opportunity to ask any questions on specific issues.
- A relationship is already being established between home and school prior to your child starting.

*'I think the Nursery home visits, which occur before your child starts the Nursery, are an excellent inclusion into the Nursery induction programme. They allow your child to meet the Nursery staff in a safe environment, which they feel comfortable in. It allows you, as parent, to address any concerns that you may have about your child starting Nursery. You tend to feel more comfortable asking questions when you are on your own turf, and have they undivided attention of the Nursery staff. I know some parents have felt a little concerned that the home visits are a way of school checking them out, but from the two Nursery visits I have had I have not found this to be the case. I think the visits are an excellent way of introducing your child to Nursery.'*

Parent of a child who entered Templewood Nursery

### For the Setting:

- It's an opportunity for staff to learn about your child's like, dislikes and special interests.
- It helps Staff to plan to meet all individuals' needs.
- A relationship is already being established between home and school prior to your child starting.

*'It is very beneficial to meet you and your child prior to them starting at Templewood. It allows me to plan a curriculum which caters for each individual child. When your child starts Templewood, I am then able to talk to them about the pets and toys, as well as the time I visited them. The ice is already broken and the transition has started.'*

Nursery Teacher

## What to Expect During a Home Visit

The home visit will last approximately 20 minutes, and will be arranged at a convenient time for both you as a family, and the practitioners visiting.



Two members of staff will always visit, the Class Teacher and an Early Years Practitioner.

A home visit form will be completed by the Class Teacher to gather information to help them plan for your child in their setting.

The Early Years Practitioner will bring a selection of toys from our setting so that they can interact with your child.



Please remember that it is an opportunity for you to share and ask questions too.

We hope this booklet is useful and provides you with a better understanding of how and why we carryout Home Visits at Templewood School.

If you have any questions regarding Home Visits please make an appointment through the School Office.