

# REDLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Policy for Home Visits



### **Purpose**

At Redlands we place very high value on home/school partnerships. Home visiting is therefore a very important aspect of this partnership. It gives parents the opportunity to talk to school staff about their child, and their hopes and expectations concerning their child's education and wellbeing in their own homes. It also allows the child and staff to get to know one another in the security of the home setting.

### **1. Aims of Home Visiting**

- To establish relationships with the parents and children that benefit the child's education and emotional wellbeing.
- To promote an understanding of the value of early years education.
- To promote an understanding of the value of a child's social and emotional development and wellbeing.
- To enable parents to view their role in the child's education as a partnership. Children learn by contrasting meaning from a wide variety of experience, including those within the context of the home and family. Education does not occur in isolation within the context of the Nursery or school.
- To gather and share relevant information with the child that will ease their transition from home to Nursery or school.

### **2. Visiting Arrangements**

#### **2.1 When to visit?**

2.1.1 Time will be set aside to enable staff to make visits to the homes of those children entering FS1 (nursery) or school (FS2) either at the end of the term prior to starting or at the beginning of the term of entering.

2.1.2 Time will be arranged for staff to make visits to the homes of those children experiencing emotional and social difficulties if deemed helpful.

#### **2.2 Who will visit?**

2.2.1 The FS1/FS2 teacher and the relevant teaching assistant will visit together for those children entering nursery or school.

2.2.2 The Pastoral Support Worker will visit those children experiencing social and emotional difficulties.

2.2.3 Bilingual support staff may be invited to a home visit of our EAL parents where appropriate.

#### **2.3 Length of visits**

2.3.1 The pre-nursery/pre-school visit will last approximately 30 minutes. Parents will be informed of this when appointments are made.

2.3.2 All other visits will last as long as is deemed necessary.

#### **2.4 Outline of the pre-nursery/pre-school visit:**

The staff

- introduce themselves to the Parents/Carers
- explain the reasons for the home visit
- enquire how their child feels about starting in FS1 or FS2

# REDLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Policy for Home Visits



- briefly explain the Foundation Stage expectations
- invite questions or queries from the Parents/Carers
- go through our 'Welcome booklet' with parents, carers and child
- gather specific information relating to caring for the individual child

Staff will visit in pairs and ensure that:

- The office has the name, address and telephone no. of the home they are visiting
- They have given a return time to the office
- They have left their mobile on, and left the number with the office
- They report back to the office on return
- They leave immediately if they feel anxious during the visit and report back their concerns immediately it is safe to do so.

### **3. Working in Partnership with Parents/Carers.**

Staff will:

- Show respect for Parents/Carers as equal partners
- Be good listeners
- Make appointments in advance and offer alternative dates/times if necessary
- Ensure that parents know when they will arrive, how long they will stay (if possible), what will happen, and what information they will bring
- Ask them to think about any information they need or queries they have in advance of the meeting
- Whilst encouraging all families to agree to a home visit staff will respect the right of a family not to want a home visit and will provide alternative arrangements
- Not presume that there are two parents with the same surname as the child and will check details at the visit
- Not assume that all Parents/Carers are literate
- Make sure they consider social, cultural, racial, religious diversity and sexual orientation.

Review date:           Spring 2020