

Parental involvement policy

We believe that children benefit most from early years education and care when parents and settings work together in partnership. As a community based, voluntary managed pre-school we depend on the good will of parents/guardians and their involvement to keep going.

Our aim

Our aim is to support parents/guardian as the children's first and most important educators by involving them in their children's education and in the full life of the setting. We also aim to support them in their own continuing education and personal development.

Method

In order to fulfil these aims we:

- are committed to ongoing and frequent dialogue with parents to improve our knowledge of the needs of their children and to support their families;
- discuss with parents on a regular basis their children's progress and achievements;
- ensure parents have access to their children's written developmental records;
- provide opportunities for parents to contribute their own skills, knowledge and interests to the activities of the setting;
- invite parents, before their child starts, to a "New Parent Information Evening" where we explain e.g. how the setting is run, a typical session, how children learn, how we monitor children's development, our role and the role of the parent, fees and funding e.t.c.. This is a great opportunity to start a dialogue with parents and get to meet staff and Committee members.
- we inform all parents about how the setting is run and its policies through access to written information and through regular informal communication. We check to ensure parents understand the information that is given to them, and the support and commitment expected of them (parents are asked to sign a "Parental Involvement Agreement") copy attached.
- encourage and support parents to play an active part in the governance and management of the setting;
- aim to hold meetings at appropriate times and in venues that are accessible and appropriate for all in order to avoid excluding anyone;

- provide information about opportunities to be involved in the setting in ways that are accessible to parents with basic skills needs, or those for whom English is an additional language;
- welcome the contributions of parents, in whatever form these may take;
- inform all parents of the systems for registering queries, complaints or suggestions and check to ensure these are understood. All parents have access to our written complaints procedure; and
- provide opportunities for parents to learn about the curriculum offered in the setting and about young children's learning, in the setting and at home.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of	St Joseph's Pre-school Playgroup
Held on (date)	28 th June 2010
Signed on behalf of the Management Committee/Proprietor	
Role of signatory (e.g. chairperson etc.)	Chair

nb. Reference to parent includes a child's main guardian/carer