

SSFU Partnership with Parents Policy 2018

At Stepping Stones, we recognise the primary role and responsibility that God gives to parents in the upbringing and education of their children. Our aim is to work with parents in this task, giving them all the support we can and to do our utmost to help their children get the best out of their early childhood experiences. We acknowledge that parents are children's first and most enduring educators and we see parents and families as central to children's wellbeing. We value our relationships with parents and see this as a vital aspect of the family atmosphere we seek to create in Stepping Stones. Listed below are the key aspects of how we work together in partnership:

- We welcome and value all families, irrespective of culture, race or background.
- Although we work as a staff team, we also operate a key person system whereby the key person seeks to build a special relationship with the child and his or her family, providing support for the child, being a point of contact for parents, and keeping the child's Learning Journey and tracking up to date.
- We value the parents' perspective on their child and recognise the need for a two-way flow of information and expertise between parents and staff. We seek to provide formal and informal opportunities for this to take place: through informal chats at the start or end of sessions, setting goals together, sending the Learning Journey home a couple of times a year with a questionnaire, parent meetings etc.
- We encourage parents to contribute to their child's Learning Journey either by passing things on to the child's key person, by using WOW! stars or through parent and child questionnaires when the Learning Journey is sent home for parents and children to look at together.
- We welcome parents' involvement in the setting, either as a parent helper (eg at Forest School), through passing on a particular skill or knowledge in a certain area, or through providing practical support.
- We make planning available for parents to read on the notice board in the Stepping Stones foyer area. A weekly e-mail giving details of the next week's activities or any other important information is sent out to parents and displayed on the parent information board.
- Copies of our latest inspection report and various SSFU policies or codes of practice are available on the website.
- We organise occasional events where parents can join us, such as the Christmas performance or outings.
- Parents are given a Parent Information Pack when their child starts Stepping Stones, which contains useful information about the setting. We also encourage parents to familiarise themselves with both The King's School and SSFU policies and procedures.

- We aim to work with parents to meet any particular Special Educational Need, medical or dietary need their child may have.
- Parents should inform us in by email or by phoning the school office before the start of the school day if their child is absent due to illness.
- Where we feel a child may have additional unmet needs, we would offer to carry out an EHA with parents to help them access the support they may need from other services. An EHA is a shared assessment tool for use across all the support services for children. It aims to help early identification of children's additional needs and promote coordinated service provision. The EHA is undertaken with the consent and full participation of the child and their family.
- Parents are welcome to pass on suggestions, comments and any concerns regarding our ongoing provision either via their key person, or to the manager, Adrienne Blakey.

Reviewed October 2018

Next review October 2019