



Home Visit Policy

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| Author | Emma Prior |
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Home Visit policy and procedure

At Aspiring Foundations Federated Nursery Schools we recognise the importance of building strong partnerships with families to support the overall development and well-being of each child. Home visits are one of the ways we aim to strengthen this collaboration by promoting open communication and understanding between educators and families.

Objectives:

1. To establish positive relationships with families and caregivers.
2. To support the child's seamless transition between home and the early years setting.
3. To share information about the child's development, and home learning experiences.
4. To address any concerns or questions that parents/caregivers may have.

Our philosophy behind home visiting

Parents and children often feel more relaxed in their own home, and many parents appreciate having time to talk on a one-to-one basis. It helps to develop a relationship and build trust in a more relaxed environment – one where the parent / carer feels comfortable.

After a home visit, parents often feel more confident in approaching a practitioner with comments and questions. This closer relationship may also mean families are more inclined to take part in events and trips offered by the setting. Children always remember and talk about a home visit long after the event; it is a special occasion in their lives and enhances the practitioner–child relationship. Digital photographs can be taken of the visit (with permission of the parent / carer) and added to the child's own file and then used, with the child, to recall the event.

Home visits serve as a platform for discovering ongoing learning activities within the home, such as preferred books, likes, dislikes, and outings. Additionally, practitioners glean information about potential sources of support for home learning, ranging from fathers and grandparents to older siblings and other relatives.

Parents / Carers often prefer to share details about their child in their own surroundings. This is often the case if a child had additional needs, or a medical condition.

Observing a child in their domestic environment provides valuable insights into behavioural patterns and interests, aiding practitioners in understanding and responding to the unique needs of each child. Moreover, home visits contribute significantly to dispelling stereotypes, as practitioners gain firsthand knowledge of

diverse family practices, cultures, and histories. This nuanced understanding fosters a more attuned approach, especially beneficial for children facing speech and language challenges, Special Educational Needs, or those in the early stages of learning English as an additional language.

Acknowledging that not all families may be receptive to home visits, we respect and understand such preferences. Where possible to accommodate varying schedules, we extend the option of an alternative visit time for working parents or those unable to attend the initially scheduled appointment. Additionally, for those who prefer a different setting, we offer the option of meeting parents at the nursery school. This flexibility ensures that the engagement process is tailored to the unique needs and preferences of each family.

Procedure for Home visiting

- Once the child's application form has been received and nursery place confirmed, a home visit will be organised at a mutually convenient time for both nursery and families.
- We understand that some families will not want a home visit and we respect this.
- We will offer to meet parents at the nursery setting if this is preferable.
- Parents and guardians will be informed of the purpose of the home visit and visits will last around 15 - 20 minutes, depending upon the individual circumstances of the family.
- Staff will visit in pairs and where possible the child's key worker will attend.
- Home visits will be conducted in a respectful and non-intrusive manner. Staff will focus on building positive relationships, observing the child, and discussing the child's interests and routines. Staff will also share information about the early years setting, including daily routines, activities, and expectations.
- Staff will take a proforma to fill in with the parent or guardian which documents important information about the child's interests, development and any concerns or important information shared during the visit. This will then be communicated to appropriate staff members.
- Staff will carry a mobile phone and can be always contacted and be contactable by the school office.
- Staff will advise the office admin if they are delayed so that parents can be contacted.

All information obtained during home visits will be treated with the utmost confidentiality, adhering to our privacy policy.