

Home Visit policy and procedure

At Aspiring Foundations Federated Nursery Schools we value the partnership between parents/ carers and school. The home visit is the start of this relationship between the parents, practitioners and children; and it starts the process of sharing information.

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.

Seeing a child in their home environment can also help to explain certain behaviour patterns and interests.

Home visits help to break down stereotypes as practitioners gain knowledge about varied family practices, cultures and histories; they learn that all families are very different. Having greater knowledge about a child’s home and family also enables a practitioner to ‘tune in’ to the child and have more meaningful conversations. This is particularly useful for children who have speech and language needs or who are in the very early stages of learning English as an additional language.

During a visit, practitioners can discover what learning activities are already taking place in the home – whether the child has favourite books, likes particular TV programmes / films, goes out on visits, cooks regularly etc.

Additional information may be gathered on who else might be able to support home learning – fathers, grandparents, older siblings, 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.

There will be some families who will not want a home visit and we understand and respect this. We offer an alternative home visit time to parents who work, or who cannot make the original appointment if they so wish. We also offer to meet the parent at nursery school if this is what they prefer.

Procedure for Home visiting

- Parents / carers are sent a letter inviting them to a new parent meeting at the Nursery to meet their child's key person and also informing them about the date of the home visit and to contact the nursery if they don't want a visit or can't make the appointment
- Parents / carers are able to meet their child's key person at the new parent meeting prior to the home visit and to make specific arrangements about the visit if needed
- Staff visit in pairs, on a prearranged day for up to 30 minutes depending upon the individual circumstances of the family
- Staff take drawing books, Nursery Rhymes, photos of staff and the environment etc in for the children
- Staff also take a proforma which asks about the interests, likes, dislikes, communication methods of the child etc
- Staff all carry a mobile phone and are able to be contacted and be contactable by the office admin at all times
- Staff advise the office admin if they are delayed so that parents can be contacted
- The office admin keeps a record of the visits each group of staff will make and their expected time of return