



St. Margaret's Nursery

Nursery transition policy

Nursery

Reviewed: August 2020

Date for review: July 2021

Nursery transition policy

Transition concerns the changes a child encounters from one place to another. This can be from home to nursery, starting school or children that attend more than one nursery. Often, these transitions involve a process of change that requires them to adapt their thoughts, feelings and behaviours to meet new expectations.

Through the implementation of this policy, we aim to work in partnership with parents/carers, practitioners from other settings and/or childminders and school staff to share information about the child and identify what support he or she may require when starting or leaving us.

The transition from home to the setting

The nursery staff are sensitive to the needs of children and parents/carers when they first start to attend nursery. We understand that all children settle differently in their own time and the nursery is able to accommodate the differing needs of individual children.

We offer support in the following ways:

Open Afternoons

During the Summer Term we offer open afternoons for prospectus parents to come along and look around the nursery. This provides an opportunity for parents and children to meet members of staff and to ask any questions which they may have regarding policy and procedures.

Home visits

As a nursery we offer home visits to all new children and families. This allows opportunities for the staff to meet the new intake of children and learn more about their family life. These visits have been very successful; we found that very few children required extended periods of transition when starting with us in September.

Here are some of the quotes taken from past parents questionnaires (2012) in regard to the Home visits:

“My child benefitted from meeting her key worker in her own surroundings where she was more comfortable”

“Helped to recognise faces on his first day”

“She settled in on the first day, helped greatly that she had a chance to have already met two of her teachers”

“Easy, non-formal, felt confident that the staff cared enough about children to make the effort to visit us at home, felt it started the nursery relationship in a very positive way”

At the home visit you will be visited by one of our Assistant Nursery managers and the keyworker allocated to your child. The visit lasts for about 15 minutes, in this time the manager will discuss any questions in regard to the paperwork and the keyworker will interact with your child. This is a good opportunity for the key worker to identify the child's likes and dislikes before starting at nursery.

In the event that a parent chooses not to take up the home visit, we will respect this decision and make alternative arrangements.

The transition from one provider to another during the working week

When a child attends more than one setting or childminder we make contact with them through our home communication books. We share information to provide the best outcomes for the child. If appropriate the keyworker will make a visit to the other setting to share information regarding the child.

First visit

Depending on the individual child, we welcome the parent/guardian and the child into the nursery for a 20 mins visit. This gives the child the opportunity to play in the nursery environment with the security of their parent/guardian being nearby. The number of visits required before starting will depend on the individual child as all children adapt differently to new environments. Each Parent will receive an Induction Pack at this time, which has information regarding the nursery and procedures and forms to be filled in before the child's start date.

School transition

Although we are owned by the Governing body of St. Margaret's school there is no guarantee that your child will be offered a place in the reception class. You are required to apply separately to the school.

In the summer term before your child leaves the nursery we will:

- Ensure that the children are informed about moving onto school through stories, pictures and circle time.
- We will also encourage teachers of the schools the children will move to, to visit the children in the nursery environment.
- We will pass on any information regarding the child in regard to stages of development with parental permission.

Here are some quotes taken from the Early Years Questionnaire (2017) in regards to transition:

“Great transition between St Margaret’s pre-school and the school”.

“Lots of opportunities to visit big school”.

“Seamless couldn’t ask for more”.