

Parental Partnership Policy

We believe that children benefit most from early years education and care when parents and settings work together in partnership.

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

When we refer to 'parents', we mean both mothers and fathers; these include both natural or birth parents, as well as step-parents and parents who do not live with their children, but have contact with them and play a part in their lives. 'Parents' also includes same sex parents, as well as foster parents.

The Children Act (1989) defines *parental responsibility* as '*all the rights, duties, powers, responsibilities and authority which by law a parent of a child has in relation to the child and his property*'.

Procedures

- Parents are made to feel welcome in our setting; they are greeted appropriately and there is adult seating should they so wish.
- We have a means to ensure all parents are included - that may mean that we have different strategies for involving fathers, or parents who work or live apart from their children.
- We make every effort to accommodate parents who have a disability or impairment.
- We consult with all parents to find out what works best for them.
- We ensure on-going dialogue with parents to improve our knowledge of the needs of their children and to support their families.
- We inform all parents about how the setting is run and its policies, through access to written information, including our Safeguarding *Children and Child Protection* policy and our responsibilities under the Prevent Duty, and through regular informal communication. We check to ensure parents understand the information that is given to them.
- Information about a child and his or her family is kept confidential within our setting. We provide you with a privacy notice that details how and

why we process your personal information. The exception to this is where there is cause to believe that a child may be suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm, or where there are concerns regarding child's development that need to be shared with another agency. We will seek parental permission unless there are reasons not to, in order to protect the safety of the child. Reference is made to our Information Sharing Policy on seeking consent for disclosure.

- We seek specific parental consent to administer medication, take a child for emergency treatment, take a child on an outing and take photographs for the purposes of record keeping.
- The expectations that we make on parents are made clear at the point of registration.
- We make clear our expectation that parents will participate in settling their child at the commencement of a place according to an agreed plan.
- We seek parents' views regarding changes in the delivery of our service.
- Parents are actively encouraged to participate in decision-making processes according to the structure in place within our setting. (At least one parent representative from each class sits on our Kindergarten Management Committee. Meetings are held termly.)
- We encourage parents to become involved in the social and cultural life of the setting and actively contribute to it.

Parental involvement is encouraged, and the following are some examples - Parents are invited to suggest additional ways:

- Parents are invited to visit the Kindergarten prior to registering their child with us.
- Parents are encouraged to bring their children to visit us regularly (at least 4 times) in the term before their child starts.
- Parents are encouraged to stay to settle their child into nursery both in the early stages of kindergarten and each morning.
- Parents are offered a home visit during the settling-in period.
- Parents are welcome to volunteer their time / read a story / share a skill, or talk about their interest or their profession eg. a doctor, dentist during the session time.
- Parents are asked to accompany us on outings.

- Coffee mornings are held each term to allow parents to meet socially and to talk to the representatives.
- Parents are encouraged to be involved in regular fundraising activities.
- We invite parents to join us for festival celebrations.
- Parents are asked to come and join us for Kabbalat Shabbat when their child is Shabbat helper.
- A 'starting points' settling-in meeting is held between the keyperson and parent / carer 4-6 weeks after starting to attend the Kindergarten. Parents' comments are documented on the form.
- We invite the parents to meet with their child's keyperson following their child's 'spotlight month' in order to discuss their developmental progress and next steps, so that information can be shared by both home and nursery. Parents' comments are documented on the form.
- Parents are asked to meet with the keyperson and participate in comments for the two year old check that we prepare at around 30 months of age (or before 36 months or age).
- Parents are asked to supply comments and feedback on parent surveys which we devise.
- We ask parents to help us with our observations by telling us any significant changes and at what stage their child is at when they start at the Kindergarten.
- In the event that a parent's first language is not English, we will try to find support with translation etc.
- Parents are asked to inform us who will be collecting their child.
- Parents give us relevant medical details and emergency contact details.
- Kindergarten policies are available for parents to read. They are kept by youth centre door and by the Swans notice board) and are also published online on the synagogue website www.frsonline.org/kindergarten/policies .
- We like to share with the parents the kinds of activities the children will be taking part in and suggest possible ways of working together in partnership in the education of their children through termly topic planners and weekly email from the Headteacher.
- Parents are advised of their own child's keyperson.
- Parents are advised that they may speak to the Headteacher or one of the staff on an informal basis daily and can make an appointment to meet with the Headteacher at any time.
- Parents are advised of the complaints procedure.

This policy was adopted by FRS Kindergarten *(name of provider)*

On 26th February 2021 *(date)*

Date to be reviewed 25th February 2022 *(date)*

Signed on behalf of the provider



Name of signatory

Emma Wohl

Role of signatory (e.g. chair,
director or owner)

Headteacher