Motcombe School

Flying high together

HOME VISIT POLICY

Adopted on 21 September 2022

Reviewed Annually in Term 1

Last Review: September 2026

Our Motto

Flying High Together

Our School Vision

"We are dedicated to ensuring every child is included, supported and valued and has a true sense of belonging"

Our School Values

We will support every child ….

to have academic confidence
to make safe and sensible choices
to be physically fit
to gain mental strength through resilience
to show kindness

Ethos

Every child is unique and individuality is encouraged. We believe that our hygge-inspired environment supports this by promoting children's emotional wellbeing and mental health. We ignite curiosity and wonder and this enables them to learn well.

Equal Opportunities
At Motcombe we believe that all children, regardless of first language, disability, race, gender, cultural or socio-economic background, should receive equal access to the full school curriculum.

Disability Statement
Motcombe is proud to be an inclusive school. We are able to offer access to the full curriculum for children who have a physical disability.

We have easy access into the main part of both buildings and have accessible toilet facilities.
As with any additional needs the school works closely with parents and appropriate outside agencies.

Parents/ Carers have extensive knowledge of their child which is valuable to school staff and will help them to provide a smooth transition and valuable experiences for them at school.

Home visits provide an opportunity to share this knowledge in an informal way and in a familiar environment.

Aims:
To build a positive and caring relationship between the staff and the family before their child begins school.

To meet with the child in a familiar environment to ease the settling in period.

To ensure the child has met the staff on familiar territory to help them with the transition from home to school.

To allow the child to share their favourite toys, games and books with school staff if they wish to.

To encourage families to share information about their children which can be used to help with the transition process. This includes finding out about children's interests at home and personal skills such as getting changed and using cutlery.

To provide an opportunity for families to ask questions or share information about their child and ensure that this is private.

Procedure:
At all times, the needs of the individual child are paramount.

All parents/carers are given the opportunity to be visited at home by members of the school staff.

Staff will attend home visits in pairs for their own security. They must leave a list of where they are going and a mobile number in the school office.

The home visit is a means of talking to the family, gaining information about the child and answering any questions the family may have.

During the visit one adult will focus on the child and engage them in an activity of the child's choosing. The other adult will gather information from the parents about the child's interests and will answer any questions the parents have.

Notes may be taken and any safeguarding concerns will be passed to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

CONFIDENTIALITY WILL BE RESPECTED AT ALL TIMES.

Sharing Information
The staff will introduce themselves and explain who all members of the EYFS are and their job role. They will explain the purpose of the visit.

Family History:
What was the child like as a baby?
What is their relationship like with their siblings?
What are the living arrangements for the child?
Have there been any traumatic experiences e.g. illness, moving house?
Any pre-school experience?

Child's Health:
Are there any health worries that may affect the child at school?
Are there any dietary requirements or allergies?
Has there been involvement with any outside agencies?

Physical Development:
Has the child had the chance to play outside?
Can they dress and undress and use a knife and fork?
If English is not their first language what is their first language and how much English do they understand?

Play:
What does the child enjoy playing with?
What interests do they have?

Social development:
How does the child respond to new situations and new people?
How much contact has the child had with adults and children?
How does the child respond to new adults and children?

Emotional Development:
Is there anything that particularly worries the child?
How does the child react to new situations?
What are the best ways to comfort the child if they are upset?

Settling in:
How does the parents think the child will settle?
Who will be bringing the child to school and collecting them?
We will talk about how we will settle the children in and ways that the parents can help them settle