

Motcombe School



HOME VISIT POLICY

Adopted on 13 October 2021

Last Review: September 2022



Our School Vision

"To build a learning community that cares for and values everyone, where promoting confidence through creativity, challenge and high expectations leads to enjoyment and success for all!"

Our School Values

to have academic confidence

to make safe and sensible choices

to be physically fit

to gain mental strength through resilience

to show kindness

Ethos

Our school ethos is our shared vision and common sense of purpose. As an Infant School we recognise that it is a privilege to work with children at the start of their school career and as infant practitioners we have a strong understanding of the need to balance social and emotional maturity with academic ambition and plan learning that supports development of both. This ethos aims to guide the day to day life and development of the school and strongly influence the 'feel' of the school.

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