**Denton Community Primary School and Nursery**

**Nursey Parent and Carer engagement policy**

**March 2018**

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*“****Most children have two main educators in their lives – their parents and their teachers.***

***While both have crucial roles to play, it’s important that the influence of the parent as***

***an educator doesn’t end when the child is in formal education. Schools can help parents***

***develop this role by building meaningful school-home relationships and encouraging***

***ongoing parental involvement.”***

**(Groupcall 2016)**

**Our vision.**

At Denton community School and Nursery we want to foster an ethos of partnership where parents and carers. We aim to create an environment and atmosphere where:

Parents and Carers are welcomed, respected and valued as partners, by the school community, in their child’s learning and development.

They have a full range of choices and opportunities to enable them to be involved and support pupil progress.

They are engaged through on-going communication and dialogue to support a positive learning environment at home and at school.

They are supported with the tools which enable them to participate in school life. The benefits of such a strategy are far-reaching and include:

Increased pupil achievement

Increased pupil attendance

Positive attitude and behaviour

Improved pupil- teacher relationships

Improved pupil- parent/carer relationships

Improved understanding of pupils’ needs

Shared understanding of pupils’ strengths and areas for development

**Current Parental and Carer Communication.**

**Before starting Nursery:** We believe that communication lies at the heart of any relationship. We begin to communicate with parents and carers when we visit the families at home prior to the children starting in the setting. At this visit we spend 30-40 minutes getting to know both the child and primary carer. We provide the Parent/Carer with a “First Steps to School” booklet where they can tell us all about their child’s likes, dislikes, family and routine. We also give Parents a guide to the EYFS curriculum and a copy of our Settling-In Policy.

**The Early days:** We invite the parents in with their child for a taster session and we liaise with them about how best to settle their child. Parents and Carers are then offered a settling in conference within the first fortnight or ten sessions. Parents are also given our direct dial telephone number and our Nursery e-mail address.

**Consultations**: We meet with parents formally twice within an academic year but are always available to meet parents/carers should they request this.

**Letters and Newsletters:** Parents receive a termly letter outlining the topic for the term. a copy of this is also displayed on our website. We send out our regular “Nursery News” with other information and our “Healthy for life” newsletter which aims to engage parents and carers in promoting a healthy lifestyle with their under-fives.

**Home-School Communication:** Parents and Carers can communicate with us via informal chats and we are available for appointments whenever required. In addition we have a WOW tree to which Parents and Carers add leaves and celebrate the children’s achievements outside school. Paddington Bear goes home with his diary and a different child every week. The children’s adventures with Paddington are shared with their classmates.

Children with Special Educational needs have a home link book where we communicate all aspects of their session including food, drink and nappy changes.

**Direct** contact – telephone: Parents and carers are often contacted by telephone to reassure them that their child has settled or when issues arise throughout the school day. Calls are also made as soon as possible to verify school absence when parents have not reported these.

**Parentmail and Parent text service**: This service is utilised when we want to send a short message or reminder of a school event that has previously been communicated via letter. Texts are useful in reinforcing information and are received immediately by parents and carers. There is a small charge for sending texts but no charge to parents and carers receiving the text.

**School website:** Our website contains a wealth of information for parents and carers, including current news and events, curriculum information, policies and online safety, and this is accessible to all. We encourage parents and carers to contact school directly with any issues they have about information on our website

**Reporting to Parents and Carers**

We update the children’s learning journey books every week and these are available for parents and carers at the end of each term. Parent and Carers are given feedback forms so that they too can contribute to the learning journey.

Parents and carers receive a progress report covering all aspects of their child’s progress and personal development at the end of their time in Nursery. This report covers each area of the Development Matters Curriculum and pays particular attention to the Characteristics of Effective Learning.

Children’s data is updated every term and the ECAT assessment forms are used to check language development. Each child’s data is transposed onto an Individual data sheet and this is shared with Parents and Carers at consultation evenings.

**Parents and Carers as partners in learning:**

We welcome Parents and Carers into school as helpers and volunteers. We ask that Parents undertake a DBS check to ensure safety. We also hold many events throughout the school year and we actively encourage parents and carers to attend.

Every Friday we host a “Stay and Play” session where we welcome families with their Under-fives. We choose a different focus each week and this allows family members to experience different aspects of the EYFS curriculum alongside their child.

We are currently launching “Activity bags” which contain a wealth of resources to promote Healthy Eating and Physical activity. Parents and Carers are encouraged to borrow a bag and engage in the activities provided with their child.

We have a Nursey library and children borrow books. Each book is sent home with a Parent comment slip and the returned slips are read and added to the children’s Learning Journeys.

We are launching family cooking sessions, a member of staff is being trained to lead these Parent/Carer and child sessions where the emphasis will be on preparing and sharing food together.

We try to involve Parents in displays as well. We ask them to e-mail pictures of their children from outside school doing things such as sharing books. These displays are placed in areas accessible to Parents and Carers and have had a very positive impact.

Once Reception places have been allocated, we provide a “getting Ready for Reception” pack for every child. This is individually tailored around the child’s next steps and actively promotes the engagement of Parents and Carers.

We provide Parents with access to whole school training and information from our School Nursing team, our E-safety specialist and our School Councillor and Inclusion manager.

We regularly refer Parents and Carers through the “Front Door System” to other services that may provide support and advice such as family support workers and speech and language services.

These events and resources provide a great opportunity to talk and strengthen relationships between staff and parents and carers.