

St Peter's Nursery School Settling In Policy



Settling-In Policy: We want children to feel safe, stimulated and happy in our school and to feel secure and comfortable with staff. We also want parents to have confidence in both their children's well-being and their role as active partners in their child's learning. We aim to make St. Peter's Nursery School a welcoming place where children settle quickly and easily because consideration has been given to the individual needs and circumstances of children and their families.

Methods

- Before a child starts to attend our school, we use a variety of ways to provide his/her parents with information. These include written information (including our information book and policies), displays about activities available and an information evening for parents to attend. The information evening covers the settling-in procedures, the importance of play in the nursery curriculum, both indoors and outside and the opportunity to talk with their child's teacher.
- Before a child is enrolled, we provide opportunities for the child and his/her parents to visit the school
- We use pre-start visits and the first session at which a child attends is for parents to provide us with information relevant to their child. We encourage all parents to accompany their child on school outings.
- When a child starts to attend, we once again explain the process of settling-in with his/her parents.
- We have an expectation that the parent, carer or close relative, will stay for the first session and most of the session during the first week, gradually taking time away from their child, increasing this as and when the child is able to cope.
- Younger children will take longer to settle in, as will children who have not previously spent time away from home. Children who have a period of absence may also need their parents to be on hand to re-settle them.
- We judge a child to be settled when they have formed a relationship with their teacher/nursery assistant. For example, the child looks for a member of staff when he/she arrives and seems pleased to be with them. The child is also familiar with school routines, where things are, is pleased to see other children and is willing to participate with activities.
- When parents leave, we ask them to say goodbye to their child and explain that they will be coming back and when.
- We recognise that some children will settle more readily than others but some children who appear to settle rapidly are not ready to be left, so we expect that the parent will be committed to staying as long as is necessary to settle their child.
- We do not believe that leaving a child to cry will help them to settle quicker. We believe that a child's distress will prevent them from learning and gaining the best from their nursery experience.