

St Matthew's Bloxam C of E Primary School



Home Visit Policy and Procedure 2024

Rationale

At St. Matthew's Bloxam C of E Primary School we value the important partnership between Parents / Carers and school. The Reception and The Lighthouse SRP home visit is the start of this relationship between the parents, carers, practitioners and children and it starts the process of sharing information.

Our philosophy behind home visiting:

Parents / Carers and children often feel more relaxed in their own home and during the home visit we aim to build up a warm, caring relationship with the child and Parent / Carer. After a home visit, parents / carers often feel more confident in approaching a practitioner with comments and questions. This closer relationship may also mean families are more inclined to take part in their child's learning at school.

Children always remember and talk about a home visit long after the event; it is a special occasion in their lives and enhances the practitioner – child relationship. Digital photographs can be taken of the visit (with permission of the Parent / Carer) and added to the child's Learning Journey and then used, with the child, to recall the event.

Home visits help practitioners gain knowledge about varied family practices, cultures and histories; they learn that all families are very different and having greater knowledge about a child's home and family also enables a practitioner to 'tune into' the child and have more meaningful conversations. This is particularly useful for children who have speech and language needs or who are in the very early stages of learning English as an additional language. Seeing a child in their home environment can also help to explain certain behaviour patterns and interests.

Parents / Carers often prefer to share details about their child in their own surroundings. This is often the case if a child had additional needs, or a medical condition.

There will be some families who will not want a home visit and we understand and respect this. We offer an alternative home visit time to parents who cannot make the

original appointment if they so wish. We also offer to meet the parent / carers at school if this is what they prefer.

Aim of Home Visit

- To build up a warm caring relationship with the child and Parent / Carer before the child starts school.
- To meet the child in their natural environment and to establish a relationship to ease the settling in period.
- To ensure that the child has met staff on familiar territory. This can help the children feel more confident about making the transition from home to school.
- To encourage parents / carers to share with us as much information as possible about their child. This information will help us get to know the child's needs and to plan an appropriate settling in programme. To get a picture of what the child likes to do at home.
- To share information about Reception / The Lighthouse and what happens there.
- To allow parents/carers to share things in private and without interruption.

Procedure for Home Visits:

- Parents / carers are sent a letter inviting them to a new parent / carers meeting at the school to meet the Early Years staff and the children have time in the classroom environment.
- At the meeting the parents / carers can arrange their own home visit date and time and to make specific arrangements about the visit if needed.
- Staff conduct home visit in pairs, on a prearranged day for up to 30 minutes depending upon the individual circumstances of the family.
- During the visit, one adult focuses primarily on the child, if this appropriate, and the other adult gathers information about the child from the parent / carer using a proforma which asks about the child's health, interests, likes, dislikes, communication methods of the child, etc.
- It's important that the Parent / Carer has the time and opportunity to ask questions about the setting.
- CONFIDENTIALITY SHOULD BE RESPECTED AT ALL TIMES.
- Any child protection concerns should be raised upon return to school.
- Staff to carry a mobile phone and will contact the office and advise the office staff if they are delayed so that parents can be contacted.

Approval Date: February 2024

Review

This policy will be reviewed in 3 years' time (Summer 2027) or before if there is a significant change in Government policy.