Parental Involvement & Partnership Policy (2025–2026)

Parental Involvement and Partnership Policy

1. Purpose

At Little Wonders Nursery we recognise that parents and carers are a child's first and enduring educators. We are committed to building strong, respectful and collaborative partnerships with parents and carers to ensure that every child can thrive in a safe, inclusive and nurturing environment.
This policy outlines how we promote effective parental engagement in line with the EYFS statutory framework and current best practice guidance.

2. Objectives

- To maintain **open, two-way communication** between parents/carers and staff to support children's learning, development and wellbeing.
- To ensure all parents and carers feel **welcome, respected, valued and included** as active partners in their child's early education.
- To provide **inclusive opportunities** for parents/carers to engage in nursery life, contribute ideas and celebrate children's achievements.
- To work in partnership with parents/carers to **identify and meet individual needs**, ensuring equality, diversity and inclusion for all children and families.
- To support families in their role as co-educators and to strengthen the home–nursery learning link.

3. Communication with Parents and Carers

- Parents and carers are encouraged to engage in **regular dialogue** with their child's key person about the child's progress, routines, welfare and development.
- Daily informal updates will be shared through conversation at drop-off/pick-up, via the online learning journal system (e.g., Tapestry) and through other written/oral communication as appropriate.
- Formal parent-consultations will be offered **termly** (or more often if required) to review progress, share next steps and set joint goals.

- Via the online learning journal system, parents/carers will be able to view observations, assessments and development milestones and are encouraged to upload their own remarks or observations from home.
- Important information (events, key-dates, newsletters, policy changes) will also be communicated via emails, newsletters, notice-boards and social media (or other platforms) in accordance with the nursery's digital safety and data-protection policies.
- Where a parent/carer has English as an additional language or other communication needs, the nursery will, wherever possible, provide information in accessible formats and consider interpreters or translation support.
- The nursery will take reasonable steps to ensure that communication channels respect cultural, family-structure and socioeconomic diversity and seek to engage fathers/carers, working parents and other under-represented family members.

4. Parental Involvement Opportunities

- **Workshops and Information Sessions**: We will provide regular sessions to help parents/carers understand early years education, child development, transition to school, safeguarding, health & wellbeing and other relevant topics.
- **Volunteering and Participation**: Parents/carers may be invited to participate in nursery activities, outings or events (subject to appropriate safeguarding checks) to share interests, cultures, hobbies or help enrich children's experiences.
- **Feedback and Consultation**: We welcome parents/carers' feedback on the nursery's environment, practices and curriculum via surveys, suggestion boxes, informal discussions and annual reviews.
- **Parent/Carer Committee**: We aim to support a Parent/Carer Committee (or equivalent) to provide a meaningful platform for parents/carers to contribute to decision-making, community activities and continuous improvement of the nursery.
- **Celebrating Diversity**: We actively encourage parents/carers to share family traditions, languages, cultures and home experiences to enrich our inclusive curriculum and strengthen children's sense of belonging.
- **Home–Nursery Learning Link**: We will support parents/carers in understanding how they can support their child's learning at home, for example through sharing key learning steps, "next-steps" suggestions, and practical ideas that build on children's interests.

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5. Supporting Parents and Families

- The nursery will create a supportive and trusting environment where parents/carers feel able to raise concerns, ask for advice or request referrals to external agencies (for example health-visitors, speech & language, SEND support) if necessary.
- Staff will maintain **confidentiality** and handle information in accordance with the nursery's Data Protection, Safeguarding and Privacy policies.
- Parents/carers will be promptly informed of any significant changes to their child's routine, health, wellbeing or educational plan which may affect their care, learning or safety.
- Transition support: the nursery will work with parents/carers to ease transitions (settling-in, moving between rooms, moving to school) and will invite parent input into transition planning.
- The nursery will recognise and support the varying contexts of families (e.g., working parents, single-parent carers, parents with English as additional language, families experiencing vulnerability) and seek to remove barriers to engagement.
- Parents/carers will be made aware of the nursery's safeguarding responsibilities, and their role in ensuring their child's wellbeing and safety.

6. Monitoring and Review

- This policy will be reviewed **annually** (or sooner if required by legislative or guidance changes).
- Feedback from parents/carers, staff and children will inform the review process to ensure the partnership approach remains effective, inclusive and current.
- The policy will reflect any changes in the EYFS framework, safeguarding guidance and other relevant national/local policies (for example the EYFS safeguarding reforms effective from 1 September 2025).