

Settling-in Policy

Statement of Intent

We want children to feel safe, secure and happy in the absence of their parents/carers, to recognise other adults as a source of authority, help and friendship and to be able to share with their parents/carers afterwards the new learning experiences enjoyed in the Nursery.

In order to accomplish this at The Acorn Nursery School, we will:

- Make a home visit prior to their Nursery visits
- Arrange for parents to visit the Nursery with their children during the weeks before an admission is planned.
- Operate a keyperson system
- Parents will complete an 'All about me' sheet and together, with their child's keyperson, a 'Starting Point' summary.
- Make clear to families from the outset that they will be supported in the Nursery for as long as it takes to settle their child.
- Re-assure parents whose children seem to be taking a long time settling into the Nursery.
- Introduce new families into the group on a staggered basis, for example three new children a day for a week rather than 10 new children all at once.
- Encourage parents, where appropriate, to separate from their children for brief periods at first, gradually building up to longer absences.

Children cannot play or learn successfully if they are anxious and unhappy. Our settling-in procedures aim to help parents to help their children to feel comfortable in the Nursery, to fully access the curriculum, and to be confident that their parents will return at the end of the session. Remember all children are different, some walk in and never look back, others take a while before they settle and are happy. Be assured we will always telephone you to return if your child is distressed and we cannot comfort them.