

Settling- in Policy

Statement of Intent

We aim to provide an environment where children feel safe, secure and happy in the absence of their parents/carers. With time we hope that children will recognise our staff as a source of support, help and friendship and are able to share with their parents/carers afterwards the new learning experiences enjoyed in the Nursery. We recognise that all children are different and that there is no 'one size fits all' approach to settling a child into Nursery, so aim to be as flexible as possible when helping a child settle into life at Nursery.

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

- Make a home visit prior to their Nursery visits, if the parent feels this would be helpful
- Arrange for parents to visit the Nursery with their children during the weeks before an admission is planned.
- Operate a Key Person system
- Parents will complete an 'All about Me' sheet with their child's Key Person to help us get to know the child
- 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 phone you to return if your child is distressed and we cannot comfort them.

**Parents should be aware that during the current Coronavirus pandemic we have had to amend and adapt some of our best practices as described above, to facilitate social-distancing and reduce the risk of transmission of the virus. We continue to work hard to support children and parents as their child starts at The Acorn Nursery School, and are happy to discuss how we can adapt our practices, within government guidelines, to best suit the needs of your child.