# **Partnership with Parents/Parental Involvement Policy**

**Statement Of Intent**

We believe that children benefit most from nursery and pre-school education when parents and the nursery/pre-school work closely together in partnership.

**Our aim:**

* To support parents as their children’s first and most important educators.
* To involve parents/carers in the life of the nursery and in their children’s education.
* To support parents in their child/ren’s continuing education and personal development.

## Method

*To Fulfill These Aims:*

* Steps Ahead is committed to regular communication with parents to improve our knowledge of the needs of their child and to support their families.
* Will keep parents regularly informed about how the nursery is run, future activities, policies etc. by written information, verbal communication, notice boards or by e-mail.
* We welcome feedback form the parents and offer topical subjects as a discussion point. Parents can have their say any time by using our parent feedback notice board. We respond to emails, telephone conversations, mail, and through our online learning profiles on Ey-Log to encourage good communication. We have an open-door policy; a member of management is always on hand alternatively a senior staff member will be made available on the front reception desk during peak times of the day if there is a meeting being held in the main office.
* We inform parents of the role of a child’s Key Worker.
* We inform parents on a regular basis about their child’s progress, through day-to-day conversation and with drop-in sessions and our online tracking data that is shared to the parents via Ey-Log.
* We arrange meetings with the parents of the children in pre-school who are eligible for the free entitlement.
* We welcome the contributions of parents.
* We inform parents of the system for registering queries and complaints and check to ensure these are understood.
* We have a suggestion board for parents to give suggestions.
* We organize regular social events for parents to attend.
* We have notices posted on a large notice board in reception notices are also on: play room doors, Facebook, Ey-Log and our television in reception for parents to gather information about different activities.
* Parents are welcome to share their knowledge with their child’s room during an organized session, e.g. sharing stories, discussions/ presentations about religion or job roles.
* There is a large leaflet rack for the parents to help themselves to any of the information there. (early help)
* In reception there is a children center file with leaflets and upcoming events (early help).
* We have a very informative weaning, toileting and transition to school display to support parents with new milestones and are always happy to share our knowledge to support people who need it, handouts are made available to parents to support children at home.
* We encourage the use of story sacks to share learning experiences at home
* In each room there are WOW sheets available that the parents can take home and fill in, these are used to record what their child has been doing over the weekend, their likes or dislikes or what they have got up to over their holiday. The staff can use the WOW sheets to help inform the planning for their room or to help with their Learning Journal entries. The rooms have communication teddys that can be sent home with activities, stories to share and books to share photos and stories about the adventures the teddy has been on with the child. Information of this nature can also be shared via Ey-Log where parents can create observations on learning that has taken place at home which can be published and linked to the curriculum as a nursery, we strongly encourage this.

Parents are requested to keep us informed of any circumstances, which could have an effect on their child’s well-being i.e. bereavement, separation or illness in the family.

As a result of the ‘2020 Pandemic’ things are currently operating slightly differently. communication is still key however this done as contactless as possible adhering to social distancing guidelines. All normal handover discussions are done via EY-Log parents can attend a socially distance drop-in session to meet key workers and discuss progress in more detail other conversations happen via email or telephone.