



Milverton Community Primary and Pre-School

The role of the key person and settling in

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Policy Statement

At Milverton Pre-School we believe that children settle best when they have a key person to relate to, who knows them and their parents well, and who can meet their individual needs. We are committed to the key person approach which benefits the child, the parents, the staff and the setting. It encourages secure relationships which support children to thrive, give parents confidence and make the setting a happy place to attend or work in.

We want children to feel safe, stimulated and happy in the setting and to feel secure and comfortable with our staff. We also want parents to have confidence in both their children's well-being and their role as active partners with Pre-School. We aim to make Pre-School a welcoming place where children settle quickly and easily because consideration has been given to the individual needs and circumstances of children and their families.

The key person role is set out in the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Each child must have a key person. These procedures set out a model for developing a key person approach that promotes effective and positive relationships for children.

Procedures

- We allocate a key person before the child starts
- The key person is responsible for:
 - Providing an induction for the family and for settling the child into the PreSchool.

- Ensuring relevant forms with parents, including consent forms.
- Signposting parents to all policies and procedures and answering any questions that may arise.
- Offering unconditional regard for the child and being non-judgemental.
- Working with the parents to plan and deliver a personalised plan for the child's well-being, care and learning.
- Acting as the key contact for the parents.
- Completing developmental records and sharing information on a regular basis with the child's parents to keep those records up-to-date, reflecting the full picture of the child in our setting and at home.
- Having links with other carers involved with the child and co-ordinating the sharing of appropriate information about the child's development with those carers.
- Encouraging positive relationships between children in their key group, spending time with them each day.
- We promote the role of the key person as the child's primary carer in the setting, and as the basis for establishing relationships with other adults and children.

Settling-in

- Before a child starts to attend Pre-School, we use a variety of ways to provide his/her parents with information. These include written information such as our prospectus, displays about activities available within the setting, information days and evenings, links to our videos and individual meetings with parents.
- The key person welcomes and looks after the child and his/her parents at the child's first session and during the settling-in process.
- We use pre-start visits and the first session at which a child attends to explain and complete, with his/her parents, the child's registration records.
- When a child starts to attend, we explain the process of settling-in with his/her parents and jointly decide on the best way to help the child to settle into the setting.
- When parents leave, we ask them to say goodbye to their child and explain that they will be coming back, and when.

- We reserve the right not to accept a child into the setting without a parent or carer if the child finds it distressing to be left. This is especially the case with very young children.
- Within the first four to six weeks of starting, we discuss and work with the child's parents to begin to create their child's record of achievement.

The progress check at age two and development checks

- The key person carries out the progress check at age two years and 9 months in accordance with any local procedures that are in place and referring to the guidance *A Know How Guide: The EYFS progress check at age two*.
- The progress check aims to review the child's development and ensures that parents have a clear picture of their child's development.
- Within the progress check, the key person will note areas where the child is progressing well and identify areas where progress is less than expected.
- The progress check will describe the actions that will be taken by us to address any developmental concerns (including working with other professionals where appropriate) as agreed with the parent(s).
- The key person will plan activities to meet the child's needs within Pre-School and will support parents to understand the child's needs in order to enhance their development at home.
- Where a child joins the setting and they are over 3, we carry out a development check at the end of their first term for the same reasons as the two year check.

Further information

- Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage: With non-statutory supporting documentation (Pre-school Learning Alliance 2017)
- Being a Key Person in an Early Years Setting (Pre-school Learning Alliance 2015)
- Creating a Learning Environment in the Home (Pre-school Learning Alliance 2015)