

Mountjoy School

Early Years Supervision Policy

October 2021



This is a Mountjoy School Policy
Reviewed by: Senior Leadership Team

Date: October 2021
Date of next review: October 2022

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Early Years Supervision Policy

The daily experience of children in Early Years' settings and the overall quality of provision depends on all practitioners having appropriate qualifications, training, skills and knowledge and a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities.

Mountjoy School will ensure that all staff receive induction training to help them understand their roles and responsibilities.

(EYFS 3.20)

Staff Induction

Induction training for staff will include the following:

- help in understanding roles and responsibilities;
- Information about Emergency Evacuation Procedures;
- Safeguarding and Child Protection;
- information on Mountjoy School Equality Policy;
- Health and Safety issues.

(EYFS 3.20)

Supervision

Mountjoy School aims to support staff to undertake appropriate training and professional development to ensure they can continually improve the quality learning and development experiences they offer for children.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Welfare Requirements, April 2017 states:

Supervision should provide opportunities for staff to:

- discuss any issues – particularly concerning children's development or well-being;
- identify solutions to address issues as they arise; and receive coaching to improve their personal effectiveness.

(EYFS 3.22)

Supervision is individual or 2:1 meeting between a manager / safeguarding lead and teacher / lead practitioner in order to support their role as key persons working with children and their families.

The manager will ensure that there is an opportunity for any teacher / lead practitioner to speak privately or whistle blow if they have any cause for concern about colleagues or should they wish to discuss a personal matter, for example work-related stress. All other nursery staff will follow the school's usual safeguarding policies, including the Child protection Policy and Whistle-blowing Policy.

The supervision process is in addition to regular staff appraisals and other opportunities for staff training. Supervision is a formal and recorded process through which the professional actions of staff are examined and regularly reviewed. It provides a recorded system of decision-making that is regularly audited to improve practice and to improve outcomes for those with whom we are working. Supervision also enhances and supports individual practice, acting as a means for ensuring that members of staff have access to the support, training and procedures they require for professional growth and development. Supervision enables managers and employees to examine and reflect on the quality of practice. Effective supervision promotes good practice that promotes safeguarding, placing the child at the centre.

Purpose of this Policy

1. To ensure that all staff working within Mountjoy School Early Years provide a safe and effective service which meets the needs of children and their families as well as best practice requirements as outlined in the Early Years Foundation Stage.
2. To ensure that all staff receive regular and constructive support, guidance and feedback in relation to their work.
3. To ensure all staff are given the opportunity to develop professionally in line with learning needs highlighted as part of their personal development discussion and to address any issues raised as part of their regular supervision.
4. Ensuring that decisions made are in the best interests of the children and meet national and local expectations, policies and procedures.

The Supervision Process

Supervision is primarily a 1:1 or 2:1 meeting. However, supervision functions may also be carried out additionally through other mechanisms such as team meetings, informal supervision within teams and between peers and group supervision. The supervision process includes three main areas of activity:

1. Line management

Effective line management will give direction, ensure quality, and will link individual practice to team performance and objectives. To achieve that, managers must evaluate practice and provide feedback and guidance to the employee. Supervising managers should regularly discuss performance issues so that staff fully understand the requirements of their role and can determine how to improve their practice. Supervision must also always address any capability, disciplinary and grievance issues, with a view to resolving these at the earliest possible stage.

Managers must also have regard to their overall duty to support the welfare of their staff and to promote anti-discriminatory practice. Supervision arrangements will vary to meet the needs of individuals and their responsibilities, and will be agreed in advance and recorded.

2. Supervision to support practice with key children

Effective supervision will ensure that practitioners are supported to make choices that are in the best interest of the children and their families, managed in accordance with Mountjoy School Early Years policies & procedures and that all decisions are fully recorded and where applicable added to children's records, learning journey's and assessments. Where key decisions are reached through informal supervision, they should also be recorded. Supervision also aims to ensure best use of resources.

3. Learning and Development

Effective supervision should support the continuing learning and development of employees to ensure they have the relevant skills, knowledge, understanding and attributes to do a particular job and to progress their career. Constructive feedback and observation of practice should be part of this learning process. Through discussion, an individual's learning needs will be assessed and addressed.

Ensuring effective supervision

Supervision sessions should be clearly focused. Managers and employees must prepare for supervision sessions. Supervision sessions are held on a regular basis. When supervision is held less frequently the reasons for this should be recorded. Supervision meetings should take place in a

comfortable, private place, without interruptions. Supervisors should also make themselves available to offer advice and guidance outside the formal supervision sessions. It is good practice that each employee identifies continuous development as part of their appraisal. Supervision provides an important opportunity for the regular review of key tasks discussed and agreed during the appraisal.

Example Supervision Questions

Is there any training you have identified you require/would like to help you in your current role?

Key person role – Do you have any issues or concerns regarding children’s development or wellbeing?

Can I do anything to help you with any issues regarding your key person role?

Is there anything hindering you supporting any individual children?

Have you any ideas about how you can improve or develop yourself/your childcare practice?

Resolving Difficulties

When difficulties arise which cannot be resolved between the manager and the employee the formal procedures for grievances and disciplinary will apply. This may be applicable where concerns about practice or capability arise in supervision. Where this is the case, the formal process should be progressed outside of the supervision process in line with the relevant policy and procedure.

Recording and Reviewing

All matters discussed in supervision must be recorded. The only exception is where an employee wishes to discuss a personal matter and this should be recorded separately to the supervision record. This discussion should be referenced in the supervision record, where this issue impacts on the employees work performance this must be recorded in the supervision record.

Agendas and discussions will be recorded on the supervision form and confidentially stored in the Head Teacher’s Office. The process and effectiveness of supervisions will be reviewed annually.

Supervision records are also available to inspectors who may wish to review them as part of the inspection process. This may include OFSTED, School advisors and Early Years Consultants.

Destruction of Supervision Records

When an employee leaves the setting the supervision records will be held by the employer for five years when they can be destroyed securely and confidentially.