5.3 Parental and Carer Involvement Policy

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Table of Contents

Policy Statement ***2***

5.3.1 Awareness of Policies ***3***

5.3.2 Information Sharing During Induction and Registration ***3***

5.3.3 Working with the Key Person ***3***

5.3.4 Communication Methods ***3***

5.3.5 Parent Information Folder ***4***

5.3.6 Parent Partnership Opportunities ***4***

5.3.7 Strengthening the Home–Nursery Partnership ***5***

5.3.8 Sharing Community Information with Parents ***5***

5.3 Parental and Carer Involvement Policy

Policy Statement

Miss B's Nursery believes that children achieve the best outcomes in their early education when there is a strong partnership between families and the nursery. We recognise that parents and carers are children's **first and most influential educators**, and we aim to work collaboratively with them to support children's learning, development and wellbeing.

We encourage parents and carers to take an active role in their child's nursery experience and in the wider life of the setting. By building open, respectful and supportive relationships with families, we create a positive learning environment for children.

For the purpose of this policy, the term **"parents"** includes mothers, fathers or both; birth parents; stepparents; parents who live separately from their children but remain involved in their lives; same-sex parents; foster carers; legal guardians; and other primary caregivers. All families are welcomed, valued and treated with respect within the nursery community.

This policy also reflects children's rights under the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**, including:

- **Article 5** – Families have a key role in guiding and supporting children as they grow and develop.
- **Article 12** – Children have the right to express their views and be listened to.
- **Article 18** – Parents share responsibility for raising children and should be supported in this role.
- **Article 29** – Education should help children develop their abilities and respect for others.

Procedures

Miss B's Nursery recognises that some groups of parents may be less represented within early years settings. These may include fathers, parents who live apart from their children, working parents, or families facing barriers to participation.

We therefore make every effort to ensure that **all parents, carers and extended family members**, including grandparents, feel included and supported. Where necessary, reasonable adjustments are made to support parents with disabilities or impairments so they can fully engage with the nursery.

5.3.1 Awareness of Policies

Miss B's Nursery ensures that parents and carers are aware of the nursery's policies and procedures and understand how the setting operates.

Families are encouraged to share their views and suggestions in order to help improve nursery practice. Communication about important issues and updates takes place regularly through informal discussions and written communication.

5.3.2 Information Sharing During Induction and Registration

Before a child begins attending Miss B's Nursery, parents and carers are given the opportunity to share information about their child.

This information may be gathered through:

- discussions during the child's induction visit
- the completion of the nursery's application and registration forms
- additional documentation where required.

This initial information helps staff understand each child's individual needs. Ongoing conversations with parents allow staff to maintain a strong understanding of children's development and family circumstances.

5.3.3 Working with the Key Person

Parents and carers are introduced to their child's **Key Person** as early as possible.

The Key Person works closely with families to support the child's development and wellbeing. Informal discussions with parents often take place during drop-off and collection times.

Parents are also invited to attend more formal meetings with their child's Key Person to discuss progress and development. Families may request a meeting with the **Manager/SENCo** at any time to discuss concerns or seek advice.

5.3.4 Communication Methods

Miss B's Nursery aims to maintain open, friendly and effective communication with families.

In addition to face-to-face conversations, the nursery communicates with parents through a variety of methods, including:

- the nursery newsletter or e-news updates
- information displayed on notice boards within the setting
- a daily information whiteboard in the entrance area
- The nursery website, which includes a parent enquiry form
- a shared online calendar for events and activities
- telephone contact with the nursery office
- email communication
- written handouts and notices
- invitations to special events such as seasonal celebrations and performances
- The **Tapestry online learning journal**, which allows parents to view and contribute to their child's learning
- social media updates where appropriate.

5.3.5 Parent Information Folder

Miss B's Nursery provides a **Parent Information Folder** within the setting that includes a copy of the **Parent Handbook and Parent Agreement**.

This folder contains useful information about the nursery, including policies, procedures and the complaints process. Parents and carers are encouraged to access this information whenever needed.

5.3.6 Parent Partnership Opportunities

Miss B's Nursery encourages parents and carers to become actively involved in supporting their child's learning and the wider life of the nursery.

The nursery invites parents, carers and grandparents to volunteer their time or skills through a **Parent Partnership programme**. Opportunities may include:

- Weekend or evening events hosted by the nursery
- helping with activities or special events
- reading stories to children
- sharing information about their professions or interests
- participating in themed events such as **World Book Day**, **Pets Week**, or **"People Who Help Us"** activities.

Parents are welcome to email manager@missbnursery.co.uk at any time to come to our events.

5.3.7 Strengthening the Home–Nursery Partnership

Miss B's Nursery runs several initiatives designed to strengthen the link between children's home life and nursery experiences.

For example:

- Nursery soft toys may visit children's homes on a rota basis, and families can share photographs and stories through the **Tapestry learning journal**
- Children may bring special items from home for **show-and-tell sessions**, helping them build confidence in speaking and sharing experiences
- Story sacks or reading resources may be sent home to encourage parents to share books and support early literacy development.

These initiatives help staff gain a better understanding of children's home experiences while encouraging communication between home and nursery.

5.3.8 Sharing Community Information with Parents

Miss B's Nursery provides families with access to local publications and information that may be of interest to parents.

These may include family magazines, community newsletters or other publications that provide information about activities and services available to families in the local area.

5.3.9 Partnership with Local Services

Miss B's Nursery works collaboratively with relevant local organisations and agencies and may signpost families to services available in West Sussex where appropriate.

These services may include:

- health visitors
- Child nutritionist
- speech and language therapy services
- SEND support services
- Family support services
- Parenting programmes and community initiatives.

Working in partnership with local services helps ensure that children and families receive the support they need to thrive.