



St. Thomas a Becket Nursery School
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Eastbourne
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Registered Charity No. 1097448

Partnership with Parents

Responsibility: Nursery Lead

Review Cycle: Every 2 years, or earlier

Date of adoption / last review:	Signed / Role	Date of Review
May 2022		May 2024
May 2024	CHarrison / Nursery Lead	May 2026

St Thomas a Becket Nursery Partnership with Parents/Carers

EYFS January 2024

The EYFS statutory framework sets out what providers must do, working in partnership with parents and/or carers, to promote the learning and development of all children in their care.

The EYFS states:

All children deserve the care and support they need to have the best start in life. Children learn and develop at a faster rate from birth to five years old than at any other time in their lives, so their experiences in early years have a major impact on their future life chances. A secure, safe, and happy childhood is important in its own right. **Good parenting and high-quality early learning provide the foundation children need to fulfil their potential.** (EYFS January 2024).

The EYFS seeks to provide:

- **Partnership working between practitioners and with parents and/or carers.**

Overarching Principles:

Children learn and develop well in enabling environments with teaching and support from adults, who respond to their individual interests and needs and help them to build their learning over time.

Children benefit from a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers.

The learning and development requirements sets out what providers must do, **working in partnership with parents and/or carers**, to promote the learning and development of all children in their care, and to ensure their entire early years' experience contributes positively to their brain development and readiness for Key Stage 1.

Policy Statement:

Research shows that involving parents and carers in their children's learning is the most important factor in enabling some children to do well.

The EYFS threads the importance of strong parent / nursery relationships throughout the entire framework. Children benefit most from their time at St Thomas a Becket Nursery when their parents/carers and the nursery work together in partnership. St Thomas a Becket Nursery recognise and respect that parents/carers are a child's first and primary educator. Supporting and learning from parents about their child/ren and having a trusting, open-door, two-way information sharing ethos is key to children's care, development and wellbeing.

Our Aims

- To promote, encourage, establish and maintain positive relationships with parents and carers of all of our nursery children;
- For all of our nursery parents and carers to feel valued and listened to;
- To be accessible and approachable at all times;

Our Standards

- We promote, encourage, establish and maintain our 'Open Door' ethos;
- We take pride in our ongoing positive relationships with our nursery families

Assurances

- Working in partnership with parents and carers is central to the early years foundation stage (EYFS) and to our nursery.
- Our relationship with parents and carers begins on your first visit with your child. Through talking to you and asking you questions we begin to find out about your child and you as a family. This is important to us being able to get to know your little one and their needs and their interests and this allows us to personalise your child's care.
- With the information you give us, we plan for effective learning at the setting, and support families in continuing their children's learning development at home.
- We continue to work together with you to share knowledge, understand children's interests and discover how best to support their learning throughout their time with us at St Thomas a Becket Nursery.

We offer a wide range of opportunities for parents and carers to become involved in our setting

- Open door policy; settling in periods; online diary and photos – TAPESTRY; newsletters and emails; phone calls and via our website;
- Parent Trustees;
- Parents are invited in for activity sessions.

Procedures

St Thomas a Becket Nursery works in partnership with parents and/or carers, to promote the learning and development of all children in their care and to ensure they are ready for school.

Getting to know each other

- We meet with the parents/carers of new nursery children to establish a relationship with them and learn from the parent/carer about their child;
- We involve parents in the arrangements for settling a new child in at nursery, welcoming their input and any information they share and maintaining a 'This is my family' board;
- We continue to liaise with and provide ongoing reassurance to parents throughout the settling in period and beyond;

General Communication

- We ensure we reach out to all parents and carers who have parental responsibility, not just those who can regularly come to nursery. This may need us to use different communication methods, such as for a working parent and in the instance of a parent living abroad.
- We have a high number of families for whom English is not a first language, therefore we have a translate button on our website. We can assist families to understand forms and letters. We can arrange for a translator when this may be necessary.

- Information can be provided verbally for some parents to whom reading may be a barrier.

Accessibility

- We establish and maintain regular contact with parents/ carers to build a secure and beneficial working relationship for their children that also encourages families to be open about any changes in the home that may be affecting their child;
- We promote an Open-Door culture to welcome in and support families who may need support or guidance or a listening ear;
- We work with families and any necessary supporting agencies for families who present at L2 and above on the Continuum of Need;
- We are open and transparent to families about confidentiality and the need to share any safeguarding concerns, where necessary, with SPOA and other relevant agencies;
- We involve parents in any other key decision making for their child;
- We create opportunities for parents to talk to other adults in a secure and supportive environment through such activities as parents play and stay sessions, workshops etc.

Acting on concerns

- We will have regular discussions with you about your child's progress;
- We will discuss any areas of developmental concern with you so we can agree how best to support your child.

English as an Additional Language

- Families who have English as a second other language will receive lots of support with developing the spoken and understanding of the English Language;
- We recognise that your child will be learning more than one language and that can sometimes be the reason for any delays in a child speaking;
- We provide opportunities for children to develop and use their home language in play and learning and at home. We ask families for help where needed, such as the provision of key words / phrases and their pronunciation, that staff endeavour to learn to support the child.
- We will explore the child's skills in the home language with you in the above ways, to establish whether there is cause for concern about language delay

Keeping families informed

- We ensure all parents activate their personal Tapestry account.
- We will keep you updated with your child's activities, progress and development by talking to you and sharing information with you via our online diary (Tapestry)
- Nursery use many other methods of communication with parents and we encourage you to view our website, to read our newsletters and the many notices we have around the foyer.
- We will ensure that all parents are aware of the nursery's policies and procedures. A parent prospectus will be provided, and our full policy documents will be available upon joining via our website and copies in the nursery.

Learning and Development

- Practitioners must assess children's achievements. Assessment plays an important part in helping parents, carers and practitioners to recognise children's progress, understand their needs, and to plan activities and support.
- We carry out a formal assessment for all 2 year olds, providing parents / carers of the of review of their progress via a written summary of their child's development in the prime areas. This check will identify the child's strengths, and any areas where the child's progress is less than expected.
- We will address any learning and development needs with yourselves and any relevant professionals.

- We will develop a targeted plan to support the child's future learning and development, involving parents and carers, and other professionals for further assessment, including ISEND, if there are significant emerging concerns.
- Nursery will support parents to share the progress check with relevant healthcare professionals.
- We respect families religious and cultural backgrounds and beliefs and to accommodate any special requirements wherever possible and practical to do so.
- Discuss with and support parents through any ISEND or other services that may be engaged for their child, involving them in shared record keeping;

Key persons and ongoing partnership working with you

- Each child is known to all staff. We also operate a key person system to enable a close working relationship with all parent and support two-way information sharing regarding each child's individual needs both in nursery and at home
- We aim to generate confidence and encourage parents to trust their own instincts and judgement regarding their own child;
- Inform parents on a regular basis about their child's planning and progress through ongoing formative assessment;
- Consider and discuss all suggestions from parents concerning the care and early learning of their child;
- Provide regular updates for families as a result of practitioner observation, through text and images about their child's learning and development via the use of Tapestry – our online learning journey;
- Inform parents about nursery activities and events, communicating with them through social media outlets such as Mailchimp, our nursery website, Termly Newsletters. We are aiming to develop more regular use of our facebook page;
- Have upgraded and improved our website to now include a translation option for our many EAL families;
- Encourage feedback from parents / carers about the nursery operations, involving families in how to bring about better communication to improve learning and development opportunities between nursery and home;
- Maintain a weekly 'activities board' to inform families and encourage them to talk to their children about their nursery week or extend their learning at home in other ways if they so wish
- Offer full access to Nursery Policies, including our Complaints Policy;
- Signpost families to other organisations / events / activities / other matters we feel that may be of interest;
- Encourage opportunities for parents to contribute their own skills, knowledge and interests to the activities of the nursery. Examples include a dentist visit, allotment visit and gardening projects, parent trustees;