CHARTRIDGE COMBINED SCHOOL

Home Visits Policy

This policy was adopted Summer 2017

Reviewed Autumn 2024

The policy is to be reviewed Summer 2026

INTRODUCTION:

Childhood experiences lay the foundations for later life. Parenting has a critical impact on children's emotional, behavioural and educational development, and their health and wellbeing. The school works in partnership with parents to ensure positive outcomes for children.

AIM:

- To provide an opportunity for the child and family to meet the Teacher and LSA in their own home prior to the child starting at school.
- The purpose of the visit is to help the child, family and staff to get to know more about each other in the home environment where the child usually feels most relaxed.

HOME VISITS PROVIDE:

- An opportunity for both child and parents to meet staff in their own homes where they feel comfortable and secure.
- The opportunity for parents to have individual consultation with a member of staff to discuss any concerns about their child. These concerns can be very varied in nature and include health or family problems, fears about how the child may or may not settle in school, questions about the Foundation Stage curriculum and general routine enquiries about school life.
- The child with an opportunity to have individual contact with a member of staff and be able to share whatever is important to them.
- Staff with the opportunity to gain information which is a vital part of the settling process and will help them when working with the child in school, such as likes and dislikes, favourite activities, position in family and previous pre-school experiences.

PROCEDURE:

- Parents are notified of the date of the home visit and the child's actual start date in the second half of the summer term prior to entry in September. We will offer a morning or afternoon appointment slot. A visit reminder letter is also sent in July.
- A member of office staff will always be made aware of the address of the family being visited
- A home visit will always be attended by two members of staff, The Reception Teacher and another staff member. This enables one person to talk to the parent, while the other can talk to and play with the child.
- The staff will travel to and from the families' homes together, and this will take place during normal school hours. Both members of staff will carry a mobile phone, the numbers of which will be left in the school office.

IN PREPARATION FOR HOME VISITING:

- Staff will together read through the policy and make sure all items on the check list are ready for the home visits.

If parents decide not to take advantage of this home visit, a pre-visit at their nursery can be arranged.

<u>Home Visiting – Practitioner's guidance</u>

Basis of visit

- To stress the value and importance of working with parents for the benefit of the child.
- To enable the setting, parents and child to plan and prepare for this important step.

Staff will visit in pairs

- To allow one member of staff to spend time with the child whilst the other speaks with the parent/carer.
- For reasons of personal safety.

Items to be taken on the visit

- Nursery information
- Photo album
- Spare forms
- Home visit checklist
- Mobile phone
- Map
- Camera
- Pens/paper
- Books/toys

Personal issues

- Familiarise yourself with the route/location, parking restrictions etc before you leave.
- Leave details of your visiting schedule with another member of staff.
- Return to school after appointments are complete.
- Be aware of pets and other adults that may be in the home.
- Sit near a door or exit and if you feel uneasy or worried at any time, make an excuse and leave.

Other issues to be aware of

- Staff should avoid commenting on a child's home or provision so that parents do not feel that any judgement is being made on their home or lifestyle.
- Staff should demonstrate an awareness and respect for differing cultures.
- Staff should remain aware of time constraints on both themselves and parents.

Home Visit Checklist

Date	
Name of child	
Name of parent/carer	
Names of staff on visit	

Discussed with parents

- Induction paperwork
- Child's personal record/registration
- Getting to know you booklet
- Setting information/photo booklet
- Routines
- Uniform
- Behaviour policy
- Confidentiality
- Other
- Health information
- Additional needs
- Arrivals and departures
- Settling in routine/schedule
- Visit and start date schedule
- Other

Signed parent/carer		Practitioner	

A guide for parents

Home Visits –

Your questions answered

What is a home visit?

As the name suggests a home visit is an informal visit to your home by school staff.

It is usually carried out when your child has been offered a place at the setting but before they actually start.

Why do home visits?

Home visits are a really good way for staff to begin to get to know both you and your child and vice versa.

It is a great opportunity to spend some time in a relaxed atmosphere, exchanging information and planning your child's start at the setting. You will also have the chance to ask questions and express any concerns you may have.

It is not an inspection of you or your home!

All information is considered confidential and will not be shared without your permission.

Practicalities

Who will do the home visit?

This carried out by the Reception Teacher and Reception LSA.

How long will it take?

The length of the visit can vary; it is usually around 30 minutes.

What will happen at the home visit?

We know that children like to be busy and active!

One member of staff will usually get to know your child by playing with them and showing them books or photos of the setting. Your child may also like to share some of their favourite toys and activities with the practitioner.

The other member of staff will complete some basic information forms with you, give you a welcome pack and go through some details about the setting.

You will also have the opportunity to pass on the 'Getting to know you' booklet and anything else you would like the setting to know about your child. Any questions or concerns can be answered and discussed