

## Parents as Partners

Our early years department strongly supports the involvement of parents, families and the community, all valued partners in the teaching of young children. We understand the value of reciprocal respect, openness, honesty and professional communication whilst at all times remembering confidentiality for the welfare of the child. When we make reference to 'parents' we are also referring to carers and those who have legal guardianship of children.

We have an 'open door' ethos and early years staff are always available for a 'chat.' We are aware that drop off and pick up times can be very busy so we are always happy to arrange a mutually convenient time when you can meet with staff. If you prefer we can also contact you via telephone or email. We pride ourselves on our daily communication with the majority of our parents and for those that we do not see on a regular basis we provide a daily contact book. Parent consultations take place three times a year along with a written report of your children's progress.

For those children who will be starting in Reception, parents are invited to attend an information evening in the summer term; this is an opportunity to ask any questions and find out more about what life is like in Reception. Towards the end of the Reception year, parents will have the opportunity to discuss their child's Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and its results during a personal meeting with their child's class teacher.

Each child's learning and development is recorded and tracked using the Tapestry online journal system that continues from nursery until the end of Reception. Tapestry supports practitioners and teachers in being able to capture children's experiences, as well as monitoring learning and development. It provides data for summative assessments and each child's next steps. Parents are able to view these observations on a regular basis via an app on their phone, iPad or tablet; viewing the things that your child has experienced and achieved provides a fascinating insight into not only their day but also their world.

Parent visitors are very welcome to share their cultural and professional interests with the children and some of our families at St Faith's have recently been involved in fantastic projects such as 'Science Spectacular.' The 'Friends of St Faith's' is the school's parent association which organises fund raising and social events throughout the year, such as a spectacular bonfire night and firework display, Christmas and summer fairs and quiz nights. If you would like to become a committee member or would just like to help you will be made extremely welcome. Please speak to a member of early years staff or contact the school office for more details.

We appreciate that parents are very busy people and that there is not always the time to meet and engage with other families and children. In the spring term the early years staff invite families to attend a 'get together' at a local wildlife park. This is normally held on a Saturday and provides an opportunity to socialise with other parents from the setting. Additionally our parent representatives from each year group are a fantastic point of contact should you wish to meet up with other families, arrange birthday parties or simple catch up over a coffee. To find out who your representatives are in the early years please ask a member of staff.