

Perryfields Infant School

Home Visit Policy



Helping each other to learn and grow

At Perryfields Infant School we believe that our first encounter with parents and children is crucial in helping to form a positive partnership between home and school. Before coming to school, parents/carers are their child's first teacher. Parents/carers have valuable knowledge about their child which will help staff to provide appropriate and rewarding experiences for them at school. Home visits provide a forum for such knowledge to be shared in an informal way.

Aims of a Home Visit

- To build up a warm, caring relationship with the child and parent/carer before the child starts school.
- To meet the child in their natural environment and to establish a friendship to ease the settling in period.
- To ensure that the child has met staff on familiar territory. This can help the children feel more confident about making the transition from home to school.
- To encourage parents to share with us as much information as possible about their child. This information will help us get to know the child's needs and to plan an appropriate settling in programme. To get a picture of what the child likes to do at home.
- To share information about Perryfields and what happens here.
- To allow parents/carers to share things in private and without interruption.

Procedure

- Staff should attend home visits in pairs for their own security. They must leave a list of where they are going and leave a mobile telephone number with the office. One of the staff will be the teacher for the child being visited. (See attached general risk assessment form).

- Staff will inform the school office (by text) of when they have left each house.
- Staff can opt out of going into a house if they feel uncomfortable at any time.
- Home visits will not be done uninvited. Staff will have arranged a date and time well in advance of the visit. Parents/carers do not have to have a home visit if they do not wish it.
- During the visit one adult focuses primarily on the child if this appropriate and the other adult gathers information about the child from the parent/carer.
- It is important that this does not become merely a question and answer session. The most important thing is to build up a relationship with the family. (See separate sheet for information that should be discussed.)
- It is important that the parent/carer has the time and opportunity to ask questions about the setting.
- All information received will be used confidentially and will help staff to learn more about the educational, social, emotional and development needs of pupils.

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed according to the policy reviews timetable taking into account national and school based initiatives.

Signed.....

Dated.....