



MARISH
Academy Trust

EYFS HOME VISIT POLICY



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Early Years Home Visit Policy

Purpose

At Marish and Willow we value our home/school partnership. Home visiting is therefore a very important aspect of this partnership. It gives our parents the opportunity to talk to school staff about their child and their hopes and expectations concerning their child's education, in the comfort of their own homes.

Aims of Home Visiting

- To establish relationships with the parents that will benefit the child's education.
- To promote an understanding of the value of early years education.
- To enable parents to view their role in the child's education as a partnership. Children learn by contrasting meaning from a wide variety of experience, including those within the context of the home and family. Education does not occur in isolation within the school context.
- To gather relevant information that will ease the child's transition from home to Nursery to Reception.
- To begin to build a relationship with the child.

Visiting Arrangements

When to visit:

- Time will be set aside to enable staff to make visits in June/July and September to the homes of those new children entering Nursery and Reception.

Who will visit?

- Two members of EYFS staff will visit together.
- Bilingual support staff will be invited to a home visit of our EAL parents where appropriate.

Length of visit:

- The visit will be restricted to 15 minutes. Parents will be informed of this when appointments are made at the Early Years new parents introductory meeting.

Outline of the visit:

- Staff introduce themselves to the Parents/Carers.
- Explain the reasons for the home visit.
- Enquire how their child feels about starting in Nursery or Reception.
- Begin to build a relationship with the child.
- Briefly explain the school's expectations.
- Allow parents/carers the opportunity to discuss in private, matters relating to their child.
- Complete personal information and contact forms.
- Begin an initial Early Years Foundation Stage assessment, which will inform planning and ensure a curriculum that meets the needs of the child.
- Leave Parents/Carers relevant information.



Staff will visit in pairs and ensure that:

- The office/named person has the name, address and telephone no. of the home they are visiting.
- They will call the office/named person before entering a home and again when they leave the home.
- They have given a time that they are due back at school.
- They have left their mobile on, and left the number with the office/named person.
- They report back to the office/named person on return.
- They leave immediately if they feel anxious during the visit and report back their concerns immediately as it is safe to do so.
- They report any Child Protection concerns to Carol Conlon immediately on return to school.

General principles for home visits designed to promote Partnership with Parents/Carers

Marish Academy Trust staff are required to:

- Show respect for Parents/Carers as equal partners.
- Be a good listener.
- Make appointments in advance and offer alternative dates/times if requested.
- Ensure that parents know when they will arrive, how long they will stay, what will happen, and what information they will bring.
- Ask parents to think about any information they need or queries they have in advance of the meeting.
- Accept the right of a family not to want a home visit.
- Confirm Parents/Carers actual name and title and keep on record. Do not presume that there are two parents with the same surname as the child.
- Do not assume that all Parents/Carers are literate.
- Consider diversity of social, cultural, racial, religious and sexual orientation.

Evaluating the Home visits

Invite feedback from Parents/Carers relating to their experience of home visits. Any feedback positive or negative will be acted upon.