

Children experience many transitions in their early years; some of these planned and some unplanned. Nursery staff are sensitive to the difficulties children may have whilst going through these transitions.

Some examples of transitions that young children and babies may experience are:

- Starting Nursery
- Moving between different rooms within the Nursery
- Starting school or moving nurseries
- Family breakdowns
- New siblings
- Moving home
- Death of a family member or close friend
- Death of a family pet.

Staff are trained to observe their key children and as such will be sensitive to any changes in their behaviour and personality. We respectfully ask that parents inform us of any changes in the home environment that may impact on their child so staff can be aware of the reasons behind any potential changes in the child's behaviour.

Supporting transitions in the Nursery

The Nursery will support all children in the Nursery with any transitions they may be encountering. If the transition relates to the child starting at the Nursery we will follow our settling in policy. If the transition is due to occur at the Nursery, e.g. room changes, the Nursery will fully support the child through this process in the following ways:

Procedure for moving rooms

- If the child is due to move rooms due to age and stage readiness, we will work with the parents to ensure this is a seamless process in which the child is fully supported at all stages.
- The child will spend short sessions in their new room prior to the permanent move to enable them to feel comfortable in their new surroundings.
- The child's key worker will go with the child on these initial visits to enable a familiar person to be present at all times.
- Wherever possible groups of friends will be moved together to enable these friendships to be kept intact and support the children with the peers they know.
- Parents will be kept informed of all visits and the outcomes of these sessions.

Starting in the Pre Prep

Starting in the Reception class is an important transition and some children may feel anxious or distressed. The Nursery will do all it can to facilitate a smooth move and minimise any potential stresses. We have a variety of methods that support this:

- The Nursery will provide a variety of resources that relate to the school, e.g. uniform to dress up in, a role play area set up as a school classroom, photographs of all the schools the children may attend. This will help the children to become familiar with this new concept and will aid the transition.
- The Nursery will welcome school representatives into the Nursery to introduce them to the children.
- The Nursery will try to enable other ways to support the transition to school, e.g. inviting previous children from the Nursery who have moved on to school to come back and talk to the children about their school experiences.
- Staff will initiate conversations about the school with their key children who are due to move to school and discuss what they think may be different and what may be the same.

They will talk through any concerns the child may have and initiate activities or group discussions relating to any issues to enable these to be overcome.

- The Nursery will ensure a comprehensive report is produced on every child starting school to enable teachers to have a good understanding of every child received. This will include their interests, strengths and level of understanding and development in key areas. This will support continuity of care and early learning.

Moving home and new siblings

These are normally two events that parents will have advance notice of and we ask that parents let the Nursery know about these events so we can support the child to be ready for this. We will spend time talking to the child and providing activities that may help the child to act out any worries they have, e.g. through role play, stories and discussions.

If parents feel that their child requires additional support because of any changes in their life, we ask that you speak to the Head of Nursery and the key person to enable this support to be put into place.

Related policies and documents

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies and documents:

Employee Handbook
Staff Handbook
Code of Conduct for Employees
Health Safety Handbook
Boarding Staff Handbook
National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools
ISI Handbook for the Inspection of Schools, Regulatory Requirements
Teachers' Standards
Departmental Handbook
Keeping Children Safe in Education
Safeguarding Policy
Nursery Policies
Complaints Policy (Parents)
Complaints Policy (Pupils)

POLICY REVIEWED BY SCHOOL: May 2018

POLICY REVIEWED BY SCHOOL COUNCIL: June 2018

NEXT REVIEW: May 2019