

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Information and Records

Providers must maintain records and obtain and share information to ensure the safe and efficient management of the setting, and to ensure the needs of all children are met.

10.5 Parental involvement

Policy statement

Hanborough Pre-School believe that children benefit most from early years education and care when parents and settings work together in partnership.

Hanborough Pre-School aim is to support parents as their children's first and most important educators by involving them in their children's education and in the full life of Hanborough Pre-School setting. Hanborough Pre-School also aim to support parents in their own continuing education and personal development.

Some parents are less well represented in early years settings; these include fathers, parents who live apart from their children, but who still play a part in their lives, as well as working parents. In carrying out the following procedures, Hanborough Pre-School will ensure that all parents are included.

When Hanborough Pre-School refer to 'parents', Hanborough Pre-School mean both mothers and fathers; these include both natural or birth parents, as well as step-parents and parents who do not live with their children, but have contact with them and play a part in their lives. 'Parents' also includes same sex parents, as well as foster parents.

The Children Act (1989) defines *parental responsibility* as '*all the rights, duties, powers, responsibilities and authority which by law a parent of a child has in relation to the child and his property*'. (For a full explanation of who has parental responsibility, refer to the Pre-school Learning Alliance publication *Safeguarding Children*.)

Procedures

- Parents are made to feel welcome in Hanborough Pre-School setting; they are greeted appropriately, there is adult seating and provision for refreshment.
- Hanborough Pre-School have a means to ensure all parents are included - that may mean that Hanborough Pre-School have different strategies for involving fathers, or parents who work or live apart from their children.
- Hanborough Pre-School make every effort to accommodate parents who have a disability or impairment.
- Hanborough Pre-School consult with all parents to find out what works best for them.

- Hanborough Pre-School ensure on-going dialogue with parents to improve our knowledge of the needs of their children and to support their families.
- Hanborough Pre-School inform all parents about how the setting is run and its policies, through access to written information, including our *Safeguarding Children and Child Protection* policy and our responsibilities under the Prevent Duty, and through regular informal communication. We check to ensure parents understand the information that is given to them.
- Information about a child and his or her family is kept confidential within Hanborough Pre-School setting. The exception to this is where there is cause to believe that a child may be suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm, or where there are concerns regarding child's development that need to be shared with another agency. Hanborough Pre-School will seek parental permission unless there are reasons not to in order to protect the safety of the child. Reference is made to Hanborough Pre-School Information Sharing Policy on seeking consent for disclosure.
- Hanborough Pre-School seek parental consent to administer medication, take a child for emergency treatment, take a child on an outing and take photographs for the purposes of record keeping.
- The expectations that Hanborough Pre-School make on parents are made clear at the point of registration.
- Hanborough Pre-School make clear Hanborough Pre-School expectation that parents will participate in settling their child at the commencement of a place according to an agreed plan.
- Hanborough Pre-School seek parents' views regarding changes in the delivery of Hanborough Pre-School service.
- Parents are actively encouraged to participate in decision making processes according to the structure in place within Hanborough Pre-School setting.
- Hanborough Pre-School encourage parents to become involved in the social and cultural life of the setting and actively contribute to it.
- As far as possible Hanborough Pre-School service is provided in a flexible way to meet the needs of parents without compromising the needs of children.
- Hanborough Pre-School provide sufficient opportunity for parents to share necessary information with [staff/me] and this is recorded and stored to protect confidentiality.
- Hanborough Pre-School meet regularly with parents to discuss their child's progress and to share concerns if they arise.
- Where applicable, Hanborough Pre-School work with parents to carry out an agreed plan to support special educational needs.
- Where applicable, Hanborough Pre-School work with parents to carry out any agreed tasks where a Protection Plan is in place for a child.
- Hanborough Pre-School involve parents in the shared record keeping about their children - either formally or informally – and ensure parents have access to their children's written developmental records.
- Hanborough Pre-School provide opportunities for parents to contribute their own skills, knowledge and interests to the activities of the setting.
- Hanborough Pre-School support families to be involved in activities that promote their own learning and well-being; informing parents about relevant conferences, workshops and training.
- Hanborough Pre-School consult with parents about the times of meetings to avoid excluding anyone.

- Hanborough Pre-School provide information about opportunities to be involved in the setting in ways that are accessible to parents with basic skills needs, or those for whom English is an additional language; making every effort to provide an interpreter for parents who speak a language other than English and to provide translated written materials.
- Hanborough Pre-School hold meetings in venues that are accessible and appropriate for all.
- Hanborough Pre-School welcome the contributions of parents, in whatever form these may take.
- Hanborough Pre-School inform all parents of the systems for registering queries, complaints or suggestions and Hanborough Pre-School check to ensure these are understood. All parents have access to Hanborough Pre-School written complaints procedure.
- Hanborough Pre-School provide opportunities for parents to learn about the curriculum offered in the setting and about young children's learning, in the setting and at home. There are opportunities for parents to take active roles in supporting their child's learning in the setting: informally through helping out or taking part in activities with their child, or through structured projects engaging parents and staff in learning about children's learning.

In compliance with the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements, the following documentation is also in place at Hanborough Pre-School setting:

- Admissions Policy.
- Complaints procedure.
- Record of complaints.
- Developmental records of children.