TRANSITION TO SCHOOL POLICY

Moving on to school is a major transition in a child's life involving separation from familiar adults and children. Older children have a more secure understanding of 'people permanence' and can approach new experiences with confidence. However, they need preparation if they are to approach transition to school with confidence and an awareness of what to expect.

Partnership with schools

- Every effort is made to forge and maintain strong links with all schools that children may attend. The setting manager will approach schools to open lines of communication where these have not previously existed.
- Details of the school's transition or settling in procedures are discussed with the various schools so that members of staff are familiar with them and can develop a consistent approach to transition with teachers, parents/carers and children.
- Teachers are welcomed into the setting and sufficient time is made for them to spend both with the child, their parents/carers and with the key person, to discuss and share information that will support the child's transition to school.
- A child's learning journey record, if the school has tapestry, is forwarded to the school. A transition document is completed and sent to the new school for all children. Parents review and sign this document before it is shared with their child's new school.
- Any action plans relating to a child's additional needs are also shared, where this is in place.
- Other formal documentation such as safeguarding information is prepared in line with procedure in Transfer of records.

Partnership with parents/carers

- Key persons discuss transition to school with parents and set aside time to discuss learning and development summaries. Parents/carers are encouraged to contribute to summaries.
- Key persons will discuss with parents/carers how they are preparing their child for school and will share information about how the setting is working in partnership with the school to aid transition.
- Key persons will make clear to parents the information that will be shared with the school, for example, information regarding child protection and work that has taken place to ensure the child's welfare.

Increasing familiarity for children

- Stepping Stones will support the various school settle sessions enabling children to be picked up during session or dropped back to us after a settle.
- Staff will encourage the children to talk about their settle sessions encouraging lost of positive talk.
- We include the various local school uniforms in our dress up section in the summer term so children can familiarise themselves with their new uniform.

Preparing children for leaving

- Children and parents/carers form bonds with adults and children in the setting and will need preparation for separating from the relationships they have formed.
- Both Pre-school rooms hold a graduation party day to celebrate the children moving on from Stepping Stones.