



Thomas Joluffe Primary School
Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) HOME VISIT Policy

We understand that starting school can be daunting for everyone involved, with this in mind, we strive to do all we can to make the process as enjoyable as possible for families and their children.

The school works in partnership with parents to ensure positive outcomes for children.

Aims

*To provide an opportunity for a new child and their family to meet the Class Teacher and Teaching Assistant in their own home prior to the child starting school.

*The purpose of the visit is to help the child, family and key staff to get to know more about each other in the home environment, where the child usually feels most relaxed.

*The home visit is an optional service that the school provides and is additional to our settling in policy provided for all children. The vast majority of families do take us up on this offer.

Procedures

*In the Summer Term, prior to the Autumn term when children start school, staff will arrange home visits with our new families – for the first week of September.

The EYFS Leader will explain about Home Visits as part of the induction information families receive.

*Parents who do not wish to have a home visit have the opportunity to come into school and meet the Class Teacher and Teaching Assistant.

*Reception staff will telephone families on the first Inservice Day of the Autumn term to confirm the date and time of the home visit.

*A home visit will always be attended by, at least, two members of staff, the Class Teacher and the Class Teaching Assistant.

*A timetable of visits will be left in the School Office.

*Staff will make their own way to and back from all home visits, and this will take place during normal working hours wherever possible. The Class Teacher and/or Teaching Assistant will carry a mobile phone, the number(s) of which will be left in the School Office. Staff will have business insurance for their cars.

*The Class Teacher will use the home visit as a means of talking to the family, gaining information about the child and answering any questions the family may have. Key questions will be asked from our Home Visit Questionnaire (see attached copy)

Staff will also take along the child's book bag, the class bear and a sticker to leave with the child. Parents will also receive a 'Contribution from home' and All About Me sheet to complete and return.

This time will also be used to check paperwork and birth certificates (where office staff have specifically asked us to speak to families who have not yet returned necessary documents) During this time the Teaching Assistant will introduce the child to the class bear and engage with them in discussion and play.



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*The staff will stay together during the home visit and would not expect to be left alone with any child.

*Home visits will last no longer than 30 minutes maximum.

*Staff will be sensitive to the fact that they are guests in the families' home and will treat all families with a high level of respect and regard during the visit.

Monitoring and Review

It is the responsibility of the EYFS staff to follow this policy. The Senior Leadership Team will carry out monitoring on the EYFS as part of the whole school monitoring system. This policy will be reviewed regularly.

(Mrs A Smith, Reviewed September 2023)