Transition Policy

Horspath Nursery recognises that transitions to school can be an anxious time for children and parents. Research has shown that the resulting stress can have a far reaching impact on children's emotional well-being and academic achievements.

As adults we know that some of us seem better at coping with change than others. This ability is likely to be rooted in our childhood experiences, as the children who are best supported through early transitions learn positive ways of coping with stress whenever it occurs at any stage of their lives.

We therefore, make transition a priority and aim to ensure that they are as smooth as possible. We recognise that transitions occur at various times such as when starting at the Nursery and when leaving to attend another setting or school.

When starting at the Nursery, we actively encourage children to make frequent visits to the Nursery with parents/carers for as long as necessary, so that they become familiar with the Nursery environment and staff. This especially helps children who may be new to the Nursery environment.

Upon entry, children will be allocated a key person, who is especially assigned to support the child, liaise with parents, keep the child's profile up to date and plan appropriate activities to support the child's individual learning needs and interests.

We aim to involve parents and carers as much as possible in their children's learning and provide a range of opportunities to support this including parental volunteers, open mornings, Nursery journals, (where parents are invited to add information) parents evenings, full termly reports, school reports, parent workshops and to become part of the Nursery Committee / Fundraising Committee. Parents/carers are always welcome to look at or contribute to their child's development records.

Prior to starting at the Nursery, we aim to find out as much as possible about the child's likes/dislikes, language, ethnicity, community and support needs. We take this information into account during the settling process and establish means to ensure that the child receives appropriate support when needed. All parents/carers complete a home link questionnaire before the child commences.

When leaving the Nursery to attend another setting or school, we aim to make transitions between Nursery and other setting or school, we endeavour to make this a positive planned experience. In order to do this we try to find out which school the children intend to go to.

We encourage children to participate in group activities to support them with listening and concentration. We mirror lessons such as phonics, guided reading, maths, literacy and handwriting. We take the children to visit the school, play in their play areas, watch school plays, school teachers are invited to visit children at the setting to discuss their learning needs and interests, we support teachers by ensuring children arrive at transition days that they are invited to attend and that parents attend presentation days at school. We also have Toby Ted, (the Nursery Teddy) who accompanies children home to encourage their writing and language skills in group time activities. We send book bags and reading books home with children to encourage them into the routine of regular reading.

We ensure all records are up to date and transferred to the new school along with a report for parents and teachers.

We support children by discussing the transition to school, by reading books about school and we are aware of any concerns or anxieties the child may have about going to school.

We reassure parents/carers that anxiety about going to school is quite common and can affect children's normal behaviour. We support parents/carers in this important stage of their child's life.

Signed on behalf of the Management Committee:

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Chairperson

This policy was updated by the Manager and staff and will be updated annually.
Next due to be updated: September 2020

"Horspath Nursery is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, families and staff at all times."