

### **General Welfare Requirement: Organisation**

Glebe House School Staff must plan and organise their systems to ensure that every child receives an enjoyable and challenging learning and development experience that is tailored to meet their individual needs.

## **Child care practice**

### **4.4 The role of the key person and settling-in**

#### **Policy Statement**

We believe that children settle best when they have a key person to relate to, who knows them and their parents well, and who can meet their individual needs. Research shows that a key person approach benefits the child, the parents, the staff and the setting by providing secure relationships in which children thrive, parents have confidence, staff are committed and the setting is a happy and dedicated place to attend or work in.

We want children to feel safe, stimulated and happy in the setting and to feel secure and comfortable with staff. We also want parents to have confidence in both their children's well-being and their role as active partners with the setting.

We aim to make the setting a welcoming place where children settle quickly and easily because consideration has been given to the individual needs and circumstances of children and their families.

The key person role is set out in the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Each setting must offer a key person for each child; each key person is responsible for knowing their responsibilities to the above Welfare Requirements of the EYFS and must read and abide by them.

The procedures set out a model for developing a key person approach that promotes effective and positive relationships for children who are in settings. Each head of year group is responsible for allocating staff as key person's to new children. The Reception class teacher is the children's main Key person. The teaching assistant has shared responsibility.

## EYFS key themes and commitments

A Unique Child	Positive Relationships	Enabling Environments	Learning and Development
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### Procedures

- We allocate a key person before the child starts.
- Where possible home visit would be carried out before the child starts, this is done by the manager and the key person, however sadly does not happen as much as we would like it to due to financial constraints.
- The key person is responsible for the induction of the family and for settling the child into our setting.
- The key person offers unconditional regard for the child and is non-judgemental.
- The key person works with the parent to plan and deliver a personalised plan for the child's well-being, care and learning.
- The key person acts as the key contact for the parents and has links with other carers involved with the child, such as a childminder, and co-ordinates the sharing of appropriate information about the child's development with those carers.
- A key person is responsible for developmental records and for sharing information on a regular basis with the child's parents to keep those records up-to-date, reflecting the full picture of the child in our setting and at home.
- The key person encourages positive relationships between children in her/his key group, spending time with them as a group each day.
- We provide a back-up key person so the child and the parents have a key contact in the absence of the child's key person.
- We promote the role of the key person as the child's primary carer in our setting, and as the basis for establishing relationships with other staff and children.

### *Settling-in*

- Before a child starts to attend the setting, we use a variety of ways to provide his/her parents with information. These include written information (including our prospectus and sign posting to our policies which are on our website [www.glebehouseschool.co.uk](http://www.glebehouseschool.co.uk)), displays about activities available within the setting, information days and evenings and individual meetings with parents.

- During the week leading up to children starting nursery we offer parents 3 free visits, when they can use us as a Parent/Carer Toddler Group, to help each child and parent/carer get used to the setting and get to know staff and children better
- During visits parents are asked by key persons to fill in starting point questions and front pages of All About Me Books so we can quickly establish children's needs and level of development so we can support them appropriately
- In the two terms before a child starts school, children are invited to spend time in class with the class teacher so they get used to the setting and form relationships with the children and staff.
- We allocate a key person to each child and his/her family before she/he starts to attend; the key person welcomes and looks after the child and his/her parents at the child's first session and during the settling-in process.
- We may when possible offer a home visit by the person who will be the child's key person, to ensure all relevant information about the child can be made known.
- We use pre-start visits and the first session at which a child attends to explain and complete with his/her parents the child's registration records.
- When a child starts to attend, we explain the process of settling-in with his/her parents and jointly decide on the best way to help the child to settle into the setting.
- We have an expectation that the parent, carer or close relative, will stay for most of the session during the first week, gradually taking time away from their child, increasing this as and when the child is able to cope.
- Younger children may take longer to settle in, as will children who have not previously spent time away from home. Children who have had a period of absence may also need their parent to be on hand to re-settle them.
- We judge a child to be settled when they have formed a relationship with their key person; for example the child looks for the key person when he/she arrives, goes to them for comfort, and seems pleased to be with them. The child is also familiar with where things are and is pleased to see other children and participate in activities.
- When parents leave, we ask them to say goodbye to their child and explain that they will be coming back, and when.
- We recognise that some children will settle more readily than others but that some children who appear to settle rapidly are not ready to be left. We expect that the parent will honour the commitment to stay for at least the first week, or possibly longer, until their child can stay happily without them.
- We do not believe that leaving a child to cry will help them to settle any quicker. We believe that a child's distress will prevent them from learning and gaining the best from the setting.
- We have an on going open door policy for parents and carers and welcome them to join in with sessions as and when they can, as we believe parent partnership is essential for children's well being.

- We reserve the right not to accept a child into the setting without a parent or carer if the child finds it distressing to be left. This is especially the case with very young children.
- Within the first four to six weeks of starting we discuss and work with the child's parents to start to create their child's All About Me Book.

#### *The Progress Check at age Two*

- The key person carries out the progress check at aged two in accordance with any local procedures that are in place and referring to the guidance *A Know How Guide: The EYFS Progress Check at aged Two*.
- The progress check aims to review the child's development and ensures that parents have a clear picture of their child's development.
- Within the progress check, the key person will note areas where the child is progressing well and identify areas where progress is less than expected.
- The progress check will describe the actions that will be taken by the setting to address any developmental concerns (including working with other professionals where appropriate) as agreed with the parents, as part of the 2 Year Shared Review with Health
- The key person will plan activities to meet the child's needs within the setting and will support parents to understand the child's needs in order to enhance their development at home.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of	Glebe House Trust Nurseries	name of setting
Held on	<u>January 2024</u>	(date)
Date to be reviewed	<u>January 2025</u>	(date)
Signed on behalf of the management committee	<hr/>	
Name of signatory	<u>Susie Pull</u>	
Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner)	<u>Area Manager Glebe Trust Nurseries</u>	