**Cart Mill Family Centre**

**Parental Involvement Policy**

**Rationale**

“The Education Department’s Vision Statement is “Inclusion, Achievement, Ambition and Progress for All”. All members of staff have a role to play and a valuable contribution to make in achieving this objective which is central to everything that we do in the Education department. Parents have a vital role to play in supporting their children’s learning and it is our aim to provide all parents with the opportunity to do this. It is worth highlighting here that this role, and the requirement to engage with and involve parents, applies equally to non-resident parents”.

(East Renfrewshire Council Education Department Parental Involvement Strategy 2013-2016)

**This policy exists to support the existing documentation:**

* **East Renfrewshire Council Education Department Parental Involvement Strategy 2013 – 2016**
* **East Renfrewshire Parenting Strategy**

**How we will communicate with you about your child:**

**Learning Journeys**

Each term staff consult with children in order to identify and plan for core learning experiences. Staff gather evidence through their observations of children’s learning and work with the child to identify their next steps in learning. Each child will have a Learning Journey which will show how they are progressing on their journey through the curriculum learning skills for life and work. *Learning Journeys are unique to each child and will be sent home each term for parents to share with their child. Parents will be encouraged to add comments or pictures to their child’s Learning Journey.*

**Nursery Newsletters**

Parents will be issued with an electronic newsletter weekly, ‘The Cart Mill Chat’. This will ensure that parents/carers are informed of key events each week.

**Keeping in Touch**

We use a variety of methods to keep in touch with our families. Monthly stay and play sessions are detailed in the Parent Planning Calendar as are termly coffee and chat sessions with both SLT and keyworkers. Regular wellbeing calls are made between staff and families. SLT are available daily for meeting and greeting on arrival at the front door and key workers are available at home time to update parents on the day. A parents group has been formed with 8 ‘key’ members who disseminate information to all parents via the WhatsApp group that they have set up.

Our school mail address is: [schoolmail@cartmill.e-renfrew.sch.uk](mailto:schoolmail@cartmill.e-renfrew.sch.uk)

Our Twitter handle: @cartmillcentre

**Parent Area**

Currently, we welcome parents to our front entrance where we display information on our front door. We have a parent area online, where you can see what children are learning (subject to permission) within our playrooms. Videos are regularly recorded of children’s learning and sent out as a temporary method of sharing children at play with parents. Parents can opt to collect children in the reception area where there is a families board with useful information as well as a health and wellbeing board with information for family support.

**Nursery Blog**

Our Nursery blog will keep you updated on all the exciting and interesting things we are doing. *A new blog is uploaded daily, each blog focusses on a different area within the centre. Please take a look!*

**Parent Consultations**

In May, before your child goes to school, you will be given a more detailed summative report as your child prepares to leave us and move on the next stage in their learning journey to Primary School, this will be followed up with a parent consultation to discuss the report and any concerns with your child’s keyworker.

**Communicating with Parents**

We value feedback from parents at all times. Throughout the year, we will send various online questionnaires to ensure that we are getting it right for you and your child. We understand how important it is to consult with you and your child in order to keep improving and provide you and your family with the best possible service we can.

**Family Centre Improvement Plan**

Our School Improvement Plan is shared with our parents annually. You will find a copy on the centre’s website. Here you will find key information on the plans we have in place for the centre. Your comments and views are gathered throughout the year, again via online questionnaires, and will inform our planning as we continue to respond to the needs of our families.