

## **TRANSITIONING TO SCHOOL POLICY STATEMENT**

An effective and well-planned transition enables children to feel safe and secure whilst adapting to change. Parents' confidence is also built and relationships fostered during this period.

We believe that children should be with their age equivalent peers and there is an abundance of evidence to suggest that the longer children spend in school, the better they do.

We are sympathetic to the views of parents and understand how difficult it can be watching small children take that next step which is why we invest so heavily in the transitioning process.

The transition period allows parents to meet and get to know significant members of the new school community and teachers. It is a period when trust can be earned and is the beginning of the process of building sustainable relationships with families. This ensures that children settle and make good progress during their time at school.

Good, effective communication about the process enables parents to understand the systems in place and the rationale behind them and encourages them to effectively engage in the process.

For parents who request to defer their child's school place, there is no guarantee that a place will be available for the deferred period at Eaton Mill Nursery as this would mean depriving another child in the locality the opportunity to access a nursery.

Where there may be concerns, effective transition processes will enable teachers to work closely together with a range of staff such as key workers, new teachers, phase leaders and SENDCo to identify these needs and adopt effective intervention initiatives to close the gap or support other specific concerns.

EMW Nursery works closely with The Premier Academy and with other schools to which children transfer, however as a partner, sharing the same site, EMW children are given priority on the school's admissions' code.

### **Transition To The Premier Academy**

Following National Offer Day, The Premier Academy writes to all the parents of the children transitioning from Eaton Mill Nursery welcoming them to the school community and inviting them in for a meeting that will explain the transition process. Nursery staff are in attendance to support parents at this meeting.

A key aspect of the transition is that during June and July all children transitioning in to The Premier Academy attend the 'School Readiness' room for one day every week until the summer break. These sessions are communicated in the welcome letter following National Offer Day. The children's school readiness sessions are with members of the

Academy Reception and the Nursery teams for continuity of care and to support the handover of key information. The sessions take place during children's normal nursery hours.

During these sessions all children who are transitioning to the Academy that stay for lunch, have their lunch in the Academy dining room where they are well supported by Nursery and Academy staff.

Additional to the school readiness room sessions, members of the Academy staff also spend time getting to know the children within the Nursery setting throughout the week.

This programme of familiarisation with the Academy and Nursery ensures that children are well prepared to start the Academy full-time from September.

### **Transition To Schools Other Than The Premier Academy**

Staff from other schools are invited, during the Summer Term, prior to transition, to visit the child/ren that will be joining them. This ensures a comprehensive handover of information to take place and for a member of the school's staff to carry out a short observation and meet the child/ren.

### **Preparation For All Transitioning Children**

We:

- Encourage children to talk about their new school and transition days at carpet time
- Provide activities and stories relating to starting school
- Focus on how they may be feeling
- Ensure that school uniform role play is on offer
- Set up a school 'home corner'

### **Compulsory School Age And Deferment**

The School Admission Code requires school admission authorities to provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday. Eaton Mill Nursery and The Premier Academy believe that this is in the best interests of the majority of children. However, there are occasions when deferment of a place or a part time timetable may be in a child's best interests, usually linked to special educational needs. Such a decision would be made jointly with parents and the admitting school. Eaton Mill Nursery is not involved in this process.

Should a parent wish to discuss deferment of a place then the admissions' authority of the school offering the place should be contacted. Compulsory schooling is effective from the term following a child's fifth birthday.

Parents should be aware that Government funding at any Nursery provision if deferring a child's place is only that of a 15-hour entitlement.

Spaces are made available in the Nursery from The Premier Academy and other schools' start dates up to 30 September for any child that the appropriate parties agree would benefit from a more gradual transition period. This is separate from deferment and usually agreed well in advance of any transition period.