



Faith Montessori Nursery

262 –264 Stanstead Road, Forest Hill SE23 1DE Tel: 0208 291 8580 Email: info@faithnursery.co.uk

Partnership With Our Children

Transition Policy

Aim

Children experience many transitions in their early years and nursery team are sensitive to the difficulties children may have whilst going through these transitions.

This policy aims to ensure that Faith Montessori Nursery makes any transition as easy and enjoyable as possible for parents and children and to prepare the children for their transition and help them view this transition positively.

For children starting school, the policy is to ensure that a smooth and happy transfer to Primary School is achieved by all the children.

Some examples of transitions that young children and babies may experience are:

- Starting nursery
- Moving between rooms at nursery
- Starting school or moving nurseries
- Changes in home environment such as family breakdowns, new siblings, moving home, death of a family member or a pet.

Supporting Transitions in the Nursery

The nursery will support all children in the nursery with any transitions they may be encountering. The nursery team will be sensitive to any changes in their key children's behaviour and personality. We respectfully ask that parents inform us of any changes in the home environment that may impact on their child so the team can be aware of the reasons behind any potential changes in the child's character.

If the transition relates to the child starting at the nursery we will follow our *Settling In procedure*. If the transition is due to occur whilst the child is at nursery, e.g. moving rooms or starting school, the nursery will fully support the child through this process in the following ways:

Transition between Rooms

The age ranges for these rooms are as follows:

- Baby Room - From 6 months to 24 months
- Toddler Room - From 2 years old to 3 years old
- Preschool Room - From 3 years old to 4 years old

Please note that these are only guidelines – if the team feel it is appropriate to move a child up before or after these recommended ages, the Room Leader will discuss with the Nursery Manager and the parents before any decision is made. Some of our children with Special Education Needs might remain in a room until they are ready to move to the next room.

Things we consider when planning room moves:

- Age – this is the most common way we decide which child is 'moving up' next.
- Availability – Children can only move to a new room if there is a place available. This means that sometimes a younger child may move before an older child if their registered sessions are available before the sessions of the older child.



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- Ability – we often have requests from parents to advance a child to the next room. However, ability only gets taken into account if in the view of the team that child's behaviour is being affected by needing the 'challenge' of the next room. Very gifted children are often more than happy in their room. It is unusual that a child's behaviour will start to become an issue because they need more challenge, but when this happens, we will endeavour to move them up as quickly as possible.

Communicating Room Moves with Parents

The keyworker and management will discuss room moves and agree which children will be moving to a new room and when the settling process will start. After this discussion, Keyworkers will communicate these suggestions with parents and agree a start date.

Once a room move is agreed, parents will be taken to visit the new room and introduced to the child's new Key Worker. They will also be asked to review their Registration Forms and Permission Forms.

Settling In Visits

Settling in sessions will be arranged for the child to go on visits to their new room to familiarise them with the routine, other children and team members. The nature and personality of the child will dictate how many visits are needed – each child is different.

A new Keyworker will be agreed and the existing Keyworker will give the child's profile with information relating to the child's individual achievements, needs and requirements to the new keyworker.

When a child goes on a visit, a 'transition pack' containing the following will go with the child;

- Coat and bag
- Profile Folder
- Dietary Card
- Comforter
- Favourite toy/book from room

Starting school

Faith Montessori Nursery wishes to be seen very much as a part of the local community and establish good links with the neighboring primary schools and in particular:

Rathfern, Kilmore, Dalmain, St William of York, Perrymount.

Children will be encouraged to attend/join in some of the activities of the schools they are going to, such activities may include being invited to the school concert, carol service, sports day etc.

Starting school is a huge transition and the nursery will do all it can to facilitate a smooth move.

In Summer Term, we will begin to prepare the children specifically for the transition from Nursery to Reception.

We have a variety of methods that support this:

- Having formal discussions about going to 'big' school.
- Incorporating 'transition' into role play, by having a school with appropriate uniforms, photographs of Year One teachers, playgrounds, classrooms etc.
- Transition books about their new school to be used with the children
- Introducing the children to the reading scheme at the nursery – Oxford Reading Tree
- Allowing children to be seated near friends who will be transferring to the same primary school at dinner time.
- The nursery will provide a variety of resources that relate to the school, e.g. uniform to dress up in, a role play area set up as a school classroom, photographs of all the schools the



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children may attend. This will help the children to become familiar with this new concept of school.

- The nursery will invite school representatives into the nursery to introduce them to the children.
- The keyworker will initiate conversations with their key children, who are due to move to school, about the school and discuss what they think may be different and what may be the same. They will talk through any concerns the child may have and initiate activities or group discussions relating to any issues enabling these to be overcome.
- The nursery will hold a Transition meeting for Parents to discuss their child's move to "Big School"
- Reading books will be distributed to Parents (Oxford Reading Tree)
- A Transition Resource pack will be given to all parents to complete. This will have an "All about me" and "All about my new school."
- Photo Books of the new schools will be shown to the children and Parents.
- There will be a Graduation Ceremony for school leavers to celebrate their time and achievements at Faith Montessori. At this ceremony, your child will be presented with a certificate and parents will be given their child's Profile to keep.
- We will provide each school with an 'All About Me' document from the child's Key Person and a copy of the child's Tracking Sheet, to enable teachers to have a good understanding of each child received. This will include their interests, strengths and level of understanding and development in key areas. This will support continuity of care and early learning.

By the time children leave the nursery to start school, our aim is that they:

- Have developed certain physical skills
- Be curious about his environment, eager to learn and solve problems
- Communicate freely, express his needs and verbalise his ideas
- Listen attentively
- Have developed a degree of concentration
- Be interested in books as a source of enjoyment, interest and information
- Have his creative and aesthetic awareness developed
- Have developed a positive attitude to school

SEN Children starting school

Where a child with SEN is transferred to mainstream, we will endeavour to have relevant supports in place e.g./CIDS team, behaviour support. All information relating to the provision of individual visuals/timetables/schedules will be shared with the receiving Primary School.

The nursery's SENCO will meet with/contact feeder Primary School SENCOs to discuss and pass on any relevant SEN information and documentation. This may also include co-ordinating a tailored transition for children with additional needs for whom this would be beneficial e.g. visit to the new school accompanied by a staff member from Faith Montessori Nursery/SENCO.

The nursery's SENCO will liaise with any relevant Designated Teachers should any information need to be transferred with a pupil.