

## **SOC Meeting – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025**

### **Attendees**

Chris Young (CY) – Chair

Cara Ratukalou (CR) Nursery Manager

Donna James (DJ) Nursery Administrator

Tamsin Willis-Stovold (T W-S) Parent representative

Shamin Sadrafshari (SS) Parent representative

Kathryn Perry (KP) Parent Representative

### **1.Introductions**

No new introductions

### **2. Matters arising**

#### **2.1 Catering**

CR reported that there had been a few issues recently with some of the food provision. Specifically, there have been a few meals which the children have not liked. CR also noted that there were some days where the provision had not been varied. CR is working with Early Years Catering to ensure we feed back any dislikes of specific meals and to discuss variety of offering. CR also reported that there have also been some issues with portion size; Nursery has had to supplement meals with additional snacks. It was noted that Early Years send a survey each term to get feedback on the service they provide and this issue has been picked up through that process.

#### **2.2 Finance**

CY advised that budgets are largely on track. There had been a reduction in occupancy across the year but this had been balanced out by staff vacancies. CR advised that she is still trying to recruit staff and when staffing is at full levels then occupancy can be increased.

It was noted that there will be further changes to funding for parents in September 2025. DJ has provided a Summary of these changes below.

At the 2023 Spring Budget it was announced that the early education and childcare entitlements would be expanded to children aged 9 months and over. Two phases of this expansion have already happened:

- Since April 2024, eligible working parents of 2-year-olds have been able to access up to 15 hours of free early education and care per week (over 38 weeks a year).
- Since September 2024, this has been extended to eligible working parents of children aged from 9 months and above.
- From September 2025 the final stage of the rollout will occur, with eligible working parents able to access up to 30 free hours per week (over 38 weeks a year) for children aged from 9 months old until they start school. Extensions to local funding rules were agreed alongside the

expansion of eligibility for Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) and Disability Access Fund (DAF) to the children accessing the new entitlements.

## **2.3 Nursery Policies**

CR advised that the Nursery Policies have now all been updated, and she will ensure that the key policies for parents are in the Parent Information folder and added online. Policies will be reviewed annually or before if changes need to be made. **Action: CR to provide key policies to CY for publication on the web pages.**

## **2.4 OFSTED**

The cycle for Ofsted attending an educational provision is within 6 years for Nurseries that have a current 'good' or 'outstanding' judgement. CR advised that Nursery's 6 year-cycle is up on the 31<sup>st</sup> Oct 2025 so we can expect an inspection prior to this date.

CR reported that the focus for Ofsted has changed, and goals have changed and that there is now more focus on the curriculum and educational outcomes than had previously been the case. During an inspection, Ofsted will routinely speak to the children, parents and staff as part of their inspection process. Inspections are unannounced but parents will be informed as soon as is practical when it is known that this will be taking place.

## **2.5 Parents Information File**

The parents' information file is now in reception and includes all policies that are relevant to parents. CR advised that she welcomes feedback on the information included and that she will amend and update as necessary.

The policies included in the Parent Information Folder are

- Safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults' policy
- Administration of medicine
- Accidents and Incidents
- Identification, assessment and support for children with SEND
- Promoting inclusion, equality and valuing diversity policy
- Admissions
- Managing Sick Children policy
- Promoting positive behaviours
- Children's records and data protection

**Action: CR to update folder to include details of Parent representatives for SOCs. CR to send out communications on the folder and to provide the parents with a list of what is included.**

## **2.6 WIFI and IT**

It was noted that there is some out-of-date information on the webpages (contact details).

**Action: CR and DJ to check pages and advise CY on what needs to be updated.**

## **3 Nursery Managers Report (items not covered elsewhere)**

### **3.1 Forest School**

The Roof is fixed on the forest school shed and is being used every Monday and Tuesday for Pre School as a minimum. CR reported that use of this area will be prioritised but that use is dependent on having sufficient staffing available to meet required ratios. More if staffing allows.

### **3.2 Staffing and Recruitment**

CR reported that she has been working with staff to ensure that they are all applying key requirements consistently. CR reports that all nursery staff are confident and competent. CR discussed the keyworker role and explained that this not always allocated to child straight away as it is good for the child to see who they bond with, as this can be critical in ensuing a good Key worker relationship.

CR updated on staffing. 2 x Full time members of staff have recently started working with us, Maria in Preschool and Hannah in Nursery room. Both have appropriate early years Qualified Teacher Status. We also have a new Part-time member of staff, Narinder, and she also has EY Qualified Teacher Status.

Sophie in Preschool is pregnant and will go on maternity leave in May. Sarah Bennett will return to Preschool in July following her maternity leave.

### **3.3 Events and Updates**

Christmas Party / Christmas play for Pre School was held in Polden suite and the feedback from parents was extremely positive. The Baby room and Nursery room sing-along feedback was also positively received with parents reporting that they had found this very enjoyable.

CR reported that the photographer came in November 2024 and parents were very happy with photographs. A further session is booked for 2025. CR has included 2025 dates in the January newsletter.

### **3.4 Graduation and other activities in 2025**

Graduation will be in the Polden suite in July 2025.

Sports Day – CR is looking to organise sessions for Nursery and Preschool. CR also reported that she is hoping to do some family activities for Mother's Day and Father's Day.

**Action: CR to confirm dates as soon as possible.**

Moving Up. Several children are due to move to new rooms in the coming months. **Action: CR advised that she will be in contact with parents prior to their child moving up to the next room.**

## **4 Parents and Carers Feedback**

Parents have asked that they receive consistent and more detailed feedback when collecting their children at the end of the day

Cara agreed that the pegs for preschool would be allocated daily dependent on children attending each day

**5        Any Other Business**

No other business raised.

**6.        Next meeting**

25<sup>th</sup> April 2025. HR meeting room 1, 09:30-11:00.