

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Suitable People

Providers must ensure that people looking after children are suitable to fulfil the requirements of their roles.



2.3 Childcare for employees

Policy Statement

It is our intention that parents (including staff working at Long Wittenham Pre-School) feel confident about using the setting to care for their children. We want all staff to commit to the ethos of the Pre-School, and the development and delivery of the curriculum. We want all parents to feel happy about the care and education given to their children at Long Wittenham Pre-School. We want parents to have confidence that staff children will be treated equally to other children accessing care and education at the setting.

As a setting and inclusive employer we understand the stresses of returning to work after having a baby or working in the same environment as your child or a close relation. We wish to support smooth transitions for both staff and all children, therefore we request the member of staff meet with the manager prior to the child's start date, to meet the needs of all parties. We believe our staff should remain neutral and treat all children with the same concern; therefore, it is not always appropriate for staff to care for their own children whilst working in the setting. However, we will accommodate wishes of our staff where possible and come to an agreement which suits staff, the setting and the children.

Aims

- To enable staff to have the opportunity to use the setting for the care of their children taking an inclusive approach, and maintaining excellent care and educational standards for all children accessing education and childcare at the setting.
- Ensure staff understand their responsibilities with regard to care of their own and other children and feel confident in raising and reporting concerns about the care of staff children or about this influencing the care provided for all other children at Long Wittenham Pre-School.
- Provide avenues for parents and fellow staff to raise concerns and receive feedback on any concern raised.
- Ensure that any parent or fellow staff member reporting a concern under the terms of this policy receive a response to their concerns and that they are aware of how to pursue them if they are not satisfied.
- Reassure parents that all children will be treated equally.
- Operate a childcare for employees policy consistent and compatible with the Inclusion policy.
- Ensure equality of opportunity for all children at the setting.

Where staff work with their child or close relation:

- All the setting's policies and procedures will be followed as if they were for any child.
- An agreed set of guidelines will be adopted by both the setting and the member of staff to set out the expectations of working with their child/close relation.

- Where this agreement is not working or is impacting on the care of the children in the setting, the Manager and Chair of Trustees will reassess the situation.
- No staff member will be key person to their own child or a close relation.
- Staff caring for another staff member's child will treat them as they would any other parent/child.
- No special treatment will be offered to any child or parent.
- All staff are expected to behave professionally in line with setting policies and guidance.
- Concerns from parents/carers/colleagues/the staff member themselves can be reported to the Manager without this leading to any harassment or victimisation, and every effort will be made to keep both the concern and the member of staff's identity confidential if the parent/carer/colleague reporting the concern would prefer this.
- Whilst staff members are allowed to bring their own children to the setting, this arrangement is subject to continuous review.
- Where the care of the children in the setting is impacted upon because of the staff's relationship with their child or close relation, the Manager, Chair and member of staff will consider any strategies that may be implemented to mitigate the situation and put in place a revised plan for care of the child/children in setting. If this is unsuccessful, then the staff member will be given a term's notice (in line with our admissions and fee policies) to find an alternative childcare placement for their child/children.

Reviews will consist of the following monitoring:

- How individual staff members work with their children.
- Whether all policies are being adhered to.
- The feelings of other staff members and parents/carers.
- The feelings and needs of the staff member's child/children.

Staff member's children should receive the same Pre-School experience as any of the other children attending the setting. Staff should give feedback to their child's key worker at the beginning of the day and no further discussion should take place until the staff member has finished work (unless in the case of an emergency). Key workers will complete all standard care, and learning and development paperwork, and staff will be able to attend parents evening to discuss their child's development. If a staff member's child/children becomes unwell in setting, the staff member must be conscious of the staffing ratios and wait until appropriate cover can be found before taking the child/children home.

- Staff must still be flexible with their working shift as long as appropriate notice is given. Staff must at all times fulfil the needs of their own key group children and adhere to their job description.
- Staff must not make comments about the quality of care their child is receiving in setting, if they have any concerns the appropriate policy should be followed.
- Staff should not spend time pointing out their child to other parents/staff or discussing them excessively.

- Staff who are friends with parents from the setting should not pass on information about their child/children or other staff member's children or any child or close relation to other parents whom they are friends with. Concerns should be raised in the usual way.
- Staff will be required to adhere to guidelines about contact with their child during the day. Although we do not want to restrict a parent seeing their child, we must consider the setting routine and the upset close contact may cause the child when their parent is unavailable again, together with the impact upon other children at the setting. It is preferable that the staff member does not work directly with their child where possible and this will be agreed by the member of staff and Manager in order to cause as little upset as possible to all children involved.

Policy approved and adopted by LWPS Board of Trustees on 17 October 2016	
Signed on behalf of the provider	
Name of signatory	Jenny Caw
Role of signatory	Co-Chair
Reviewed February	Signed:  Dated: 20 Feb 2017
Reviewed June	Signed: Dated:

