

<b>POLICY TITLE</b>	<b>Kindergarten Settling-in Policy</b>
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## Introduction

Children settle into a new setting in lots of different ways and timescales. Many children will settle comfortably into the Kindergarten rhythm during the first week. Some children take a little longer. If a child is distressed about separating from their parent or carer, the teacher will discuss strategies with the parent/carer. The teacher will carefully observe the child and as they become familiar with the rhythm and environment. We expect that children should be able to say goodbye with ease by the end of the first half term at the latest.

Children often find the actual separation from a parent/carer the most difficult part of coming to Kindergarten and will calm down once their parents/carers have left. The teacher will advise the parent/carer when they would like the parent/carer to leave. This may mean that a child is left in tears; however, they will be comforted and supported by the teacher or assistant and the parent/carer will be contacted by phone to reassure them that their child is happy and coping. In the first week we advise that parents stay close to the school in case the child finds it more difficult to settle. Once we notice children are nearly fully settled, we ask parents/carers to make partings brief.

During the period of transition and adjustment it is important for the parents/carers to remain positive about the situation. To show understanding and support for the child's feelings, assure them that they will return and leave them with a hug and a confident smile. Prolonging the parting prolongs the time it takes for children to adjust to the morning goodbyes. If parents/carers show confidence in the teacher and environment, then the children will assimilate these feelings.

The first few weeks of Kindergarten can be tiring for some children, especially for the young ones families are advised to talk to the Kindergarten team and Headteacher who can arrange for Home visits and also a gentle introduction to attending the 'Kinde Tree' walks initially

For children with EAL and no spoken English, it may be possible for that child to be placed with a teacher who speaks their home language. Teachers will communicate closely with parents and may provide written copies of stories, songs and ring times for parents to translate at home. It is important that the child is able to make simple requests and that they can also understand simple instructions in order that the child can be kept safe at all times.

The Kindergarten Team will always endeavour to begin a term with some social gathering with families present this will help children to become familiar with their teachers and the Kindergarten environment without the trauma of the parents leaving.

Home visits will take place throughout the year.

Teachers will be available to talk at any stage of the settling-in process. There is time for brief, informal chats at the beginning and end of each session and appointments can be made for more in-depth conversations with the teacher.

Children are usually ready and very excited about starting Kindergarten, exploring the world beyond their homes, and having a social life outside of their family. We will do our best to support children and their families in making this transition as gentle and happy as possible.