**PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY.**

Cowling Preschool believes that children benefit most from early years education and care when parents and settings work together in partnership. We welcome the contributions of parents, in whatever form these may take.

**Policy Statement.**

Our aim is to support parents as their children’s first and most important educators by involving them in their children’s education and in the full life of our setting. We also aim to support parents in their own continuing education and personal development. Some parents are less well represented in early years settings; these include fathers, parents who live apart from their children but who still play a part in their lives, as well as working parents. In carrying out the following procedures, we will ensure all parents are included. By ‘parents’ we mean both mothers and fathers; natural and birth parents; adopted parents; step-parents and parents who do not live with their child; same sex parents; foster parents and carers who have parental responsibility.

**Procedures.**

* We have means to ensure all parents are included – that may mean we adopt different strategies for involving fathers or parents who work or live apart from their children.
* We consult with parents to find out what works best for them.
* We have regular contact with parents to improve our knowledge of the needs of their children and to support their children.
* We inform all parents about how our preschool is run and its policies through access to written information or through our website. We check to ensure understanding and answer any questions.
* We encourage and support parents to play an active part in the governance and management of the setting, inviting all parents to our committee meetings.
* We give all parents access to the shared record keeping and written development records and offer informal meetings about their child’s progress.
* We provide opportunities for parents to contribute their own skills, knowledge and interests in the activities of the setting.
* We inform parents about relevant conferences, workshops and training.
* We provide information about opportunities to be involved in the preschool in ways that are accessible to parents with basic skills needs or for those whom English is an additional language.
* We hold meetings in venues that are accessible and appropriate for all and at a time which suits as many people as possible.
* We provide opportunities for parents to learn about the curriculum offered in the setting and about young children’s learning, in the setting and at home.
* In compliance with the Welfare Requirements we have the following documentation in place:
  + Admissions Policy.
  + Complaints Procedure.
  + Record of Complaints.
  + Developmental records of children.

**This policy was adopted on .………………………………….......**

**Date to be reviewed ...…………………………………….**

**Signed on behalf of the management committee …………………………………………**

**Name of signatory …………………………………………**

**Role of signatory (e.g. Chair/owner) …………………………………………**