Introduction

The transition from home to Nursery, for most children probably is the first significant change from total parental care to being cared for outside the home, as well as being the child's first contact with teachers.

Teachers, in partnership with parents, can build on the child’s experiences of love and care. Parental involvement eases the transition from home into the nursery situation and the integration of the child into the wider social community.

We in St Francis’ Nursery Unit, recognise the need for a working relationship with children, parents and significant others. We realise that for the partnership between staff and parents to be effective there must be mutual understanding and respect, a continuing dialogue and a sharing of information and knowledge. We realise that if parental involvement is not developed at the onset of the educative process, then a valuable resource will be lost.

Partnership and support for families include:

- Parents/Primary Care Givers, will be made welcome and are free to visit the nursery at all times.
- Prior to the child starting Nursery, parents will be invited to Introductory Meeting in late May/early June.
- At the Introductory Meeting the parents will be issued with a “Welcome Booklet” giving the child’s visit and starting date, as well as relevant information which will be delivered by the staff at the meeting, from which discussion may arise.
- Parents have access to all our policies and procedures and monthly plans which are available to read in the “Welcome Area”. They are invited to read these and ask staff about them if they wish. We also send home policies such as, the Settling-In Policy, the Discipline Policy, the Teaching and Learning Policy and the Child Protection Policy.
- Parents are invited to bring their children to the nursery for a visit on a specific date at a specific time. This enables staff, parents and children to meet informally and to get to know each other. School Information Forms, Personal Information Forms and Parental Assessment Forms will be given out for parents
to complete during this time and clear instructions and help will be given if required.

- During the settling in period, parent's fears and anxieties should be allayed by positive interaction. Parents must be prepared to stay until such time as the child feels comfortable in nursery.
- Staff will welcome parents and children each morning and afternoon, providing opportunities for verbal interaction and sharing of information.
- Parents will be invited to attend GRTL meetings throughout the year.
- Parents will receive a Monthly Newsletter which contains curriculum information on what we will be covering in the six areas of the nursery curriculum, tips on how to help the child at home and other relevant information. They will also receive monthly songs and rhymes sheets so that they can continue teaching the songs and rhymes related to the topics at home.
- Parents are encouraged to help their child to select a book from our Library in the “Welcome Area” to read and enjoy at home on a daily basis.
- Parents will be invited for one formal meeting in November when the children’s Settling-In Reports will be discussed. Parents will receive a transition report in June. Parents are welcome to discuss their child’s progress at any stage during the course of the school year.
- Parents of children with Special Educational Needs will receive continuous support.
- Parents will be invited to a Halloween and Christmas Concert.
- Parents will be invited to Sports Day to watch their child take part and will be invited into the unit for light refreshments. At this the children will also receive a “Graduation Certificate” and their portfolio of work kept over the year.
- Parents with specific talents, hobbies and jobs will be invited into the nursery to talk to the children about these and help out if required, for example in the garden.
- Parents are kept fully informed of Nursery activities through the parents notice board in the “Welcome Area,” notes are posted on the entrance door of the classrooms and Newsletters, relevant information and photographs are uploaded to the website on a regular basis.
- Parents are invited into the setting to look at the children’s work and the photographs displayed of them at play/work.
- Parents and past pupils are always welcome to visit our Nursery Setting.