



# **Home Visits in EYFS**

At Nevill Road Infant School we offer families a home visit before children start with us in Nursery and Reception. They are a valuable opportunity for our team and your family to get to know each other in a place where your family, especially the child, feels the most comfortable. Home visits will help us build relationships, support the transition between home and school, help to engage families in their child's learning and development, demonstrate the value of shared working, and enable key information to be shared at an early stage.

## **What is the purpose of a home visit?**

### *To help home / school links*

Home visits are valuable in establishing links between home and school. They can be used as an opportunity to get to know the child and their interests, and to obtain key information from parents and carers. Children can also meet their key person for the first time, in an environment where they feel relaxed and comfortable.

### *To help settling in / transitions*

Home visits are a significant memory for children; the time their Teachers came to their house – it's a memory that they will continue to talk to the teacher about for quite a while afterwards! Home visits help children to put a face to a name in preparation for their first day at school, so they immediately recognise the adults in their classroom. This really helps with children's transitions into school.

### *To build a relationship with parents*

Many children and parents feel more comfortable talking to Teachers in their home environment as it is much more relaxed and less formal than the school setting. It serves as a solid starting point where there can be open communication on a one-to-one basis, it creates a sense of trust, and facilitates the beginning of a supportive, professional relationship.

### *Important to note*

It is not an inspection of you or your home! Home visits are not mandatory, and you are under no obligation to arrange a home visit – it is completely your choice, but the offer is there should you require one.

## **Who will do the home visit and how long will it take?**

Home visits are usually carried out by the Class Teacher and their Teaching Assistant and usually take around 30 minutes.

## **What will happen at the home visit?**

One member of staff will usually get to know your child by playing with them and learning about their interests. The other member of staff will have a one-to-one conversation with you and answer any questions that you have about your child starting at our school. You will also have the opportunity to share any concerns you may have, and share any strategies that you use which help your child should the need arise.

## **How should I prepare for a home visit?**

1. Try to remove any distractions, for example family pets who are loud or require a lot of attention.
2. It is helpful if the television or radio has been turned off.
3. Have some of your child's favourite toys or play things available as these can help the member of our team to engage with your child.
4. Prepare a list of questions you may want to ask, or concerns that you want to share.