

Settling-in Policy

Purpose

Aflah Nursery recognises that starting nursery is a significant milestone for both children and their families. We are committed to providing a welcoming, nurturing and supportive environment that enables every child to settle confidently, build secure relationships and develop a sense of belonging.

Our settling-in process is designed to meet each child's individual needs and to ensure a positive transition into nursery life.

Our Approach

Every child is unique and will settle at their own pace. We work closely with parents and carers to understand each child's interests, routines, comforters, dietary needs and individual requirements before they begin attending the nursery.

Each child will be assigned a Key Person who will help them build trusting relationships, provide reassurance and support their emotional wellbeing throughout the settling-in period.

Settling-in Sessions

Children are offered a flexible settling-in period during their first two weeks at nursery.

Where appropriate, parents may choose for their child to attend shorter or half-day sessions during this period to help them adjust gradually to their new environment. This flexibility is intended to support children in building confidence and developing secure relationships before moving to their usual attendance pattern.

The length and number of settling-in sessions will be agreed upon by the nursery and parents, taking into account the child's individual needs. Some children may settle quickly and be ready to attend their full sessions immediately, while others may benefit from a more gradual transition.

Working in Partnership with Parents

Parents play an important role in helping their child settle. We encourage open communication before and during the settling-in period and will provide regular updates on how children are progressing.

Parents are encouraged to share any concerns or information that may help staff support their child's emotional wellbeing and development.

Supporting Children

Staff will support children by:

- Building warm and trusting relationships.
- Providing reassurance and comfort where needed.
- Following children's individual routines as closely as possible.
- Encouraging exploration through play.
- Helping children develop confidence and independence at their own pace.
- Maintaining regular communication with parents throughout the settling-in process.

Safeguarding and Additional Needs

During the settling-in period, staff will remain attentive to each child's emotional wellbeing, behaviour, communication and individual needs. Any safeguarding concerns that arise will be reported and managed immediately in accordance with Aflah Nursery's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Where a child has SEND, medical needs or other additional needs, the nursery will work with parents and carers and, where appropriate, relevant professionals to ensure that suitable arrangements and reasonable adjustments are in place to support the child's transition into nursery.

Monitoring and Review

The Nursery Manager will oversee the implementation of this policy and ensure that settling-in arrangements remain flexible and responsive to the individual needs of children and families.

Date Approved: August 2026

Review Date: August 2027

Aflah Nursery