Working in Partnership with Other Agencies Policy

Policy Statement

Bradpole Preschool works in partnership with local and national agencies to promote the wellbeing, learning, development and safety of all children.

We recognise that effective partnership working enables children and families to access appropriate support and services and helps us to meet children's individual needs. We value the expertise and support provided by a range of professionals and organisations and are committed to working collaboratively in the best interests of children and their families.

Procedures

We work in partnership with local and national agencies to promote the wellbeing, learning, development and safeguarding of children.

Procedures are in place for sharing information about children and families with other agencies. These are set out in our Confidentiality and Information Sharing Policy, Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy, and Children's Records Policy.

Information shared with us by other agencies is regarded as third-party information and is treated confidentially. Such information will not be shared further without the consent of the originating agency unless there is a legal or safeguarding requirement to do so.

When working in partnership with professionals from other agencies, we welcome them into the setting and respect their professional roles and responsibilities. We follow local and national guidance and agreed protocols when working with outside agencies, including safeguarding, child protection and information-sharing procedures.

Visiting professionals do not have unsupervised access to children unless this has been specifically agreed as part of their professional role and is in accordance with safeguarding procedures. Staff from outside agencies will be accompanied by a member of preschool staff where appropriate and will not have access to information about other children attending the setting.

Our staff do not casually share information or seek informal advice about any named child or family.

Information is shared professionally, appropriately and only when there is a legitimate reason to do so.

Wherever possible, parental consent will be obtained before information is shared with outside agencies. However, consent is not required where there are safeguarding concerns, where a child may be at risk of harm, or where information sharing is required by law.

We maintain accurate records of discussions, meetings, referrals and information shared with external agencies in accordance with our Data Protection and Record Retention Policies.

When necessary, we consult with local and national agencies that can provide specialist advice, support and information to help us meet the needs of children and families.

These agencies may include, but are not limited to:

- Health Visitors
- Speech and Language Therapy Services
- Educational Psychology Services
- Early Years and SEND Advisory Teams
- Family Support Services

- Social Care Services
- Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership (DSCP)
- NHS Services
- Welfare and Benefits Advice Services
- Community and Cultural Organisations
- Drug and Alcohol Support Services
- Charitable and Voluntary Organisations supporting children and families

Confidentiality and Information Sharing

Bradpole Preschool recognises that effective information sharing is essential in supporting children's welfare and development.

Any information shared with outside agencies will be necessary and proportionate, relevant and accurate, shared securely and appropriately, and recorded where required.

All information sharing will be managed in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), the Data Protection Act 2018, and relevant safeguarding legislation and guidance.

Legislation and Guidance

This policy is informed by:

- The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework,
- Working Together to Safeguard Children,
- The Data Protection Act 2018,
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), and
- The Children Act 1989 and Children Act 2004.

This policy was adopted by the Bradpole Preschool Committee

During the Summer Term 2026

Date to be reviewed Summer Term 2027