

Dover Park Primary School



Home Visits

Introduction

As your child enters school, we aim to make the transition as smooth as possible. Home visits are just one of the elements of our transition programme, whether your child is joining us from a pre-school, Nursey, child minder or has no pre-school experience.

Home visits are a key tool in building trusting relationships between home and school. We believe that what happens in the home environment is an important part of your child's development and we hope that our visit will underpin the important relationship between home and school. We believe that home visits are the first step in establishing a positive home/school partnership.

Home visits will be carried out by the Reception class teacher and our Deputy Head/SENCO, Mrs Roberts. It is an opportunity for us to learn about your child and your family, as well as a chance for you to find out more about the Dover Park team, so that you feel confident to approach staff when your child starts school.

By coming to visit you in your home, we hope that you will feel comfortable sharing information freely and confidentially, particularly concerning and sensitive issues. You will also have the opportunity to ask any questions you have about school or the transition process.

Please do not feel anxious about home visits. We hope that you will find this a valuable opportunity to have an informal discussion in a familiar environment to you and your child.

Benefits of Home Visits

To the children

- *By seeing school staff in your home the children see that you have a shared trust.
- *Children are more relaxed and confident in their own homes.

I liked it when the teacher from school came to my house. I showed them my toys.



To Parents/Carers

- *It is your chance to have a confidential discussion and share any information you think we need to know to help your child settle in quickly.
- * Staff can gather information thus informing them of any Specific needs your child may have.
- * You can ask any questions you have.
- * A relationship is already established between home and prior to school visits.

I think the school home visits, which happen before your child starts school, are an excellent addition to the school transition programme. They allow your child to meet their teacher in a safe environment where they feel comfortable in. It allows you, as the parent, to address any concerns that you might have about your child starting school. You tend to feel more confident asking questions when you are on your home turf and you have the undivided attention of the school staff. I think some parents might think that the school are checking them out, but from the visit I had I did not find this to be the case. The focus was purely on me and my child. It was nice that my child already knew his teacher when he came for his first visit to school.

Parent of a child entering Dover Park reception class in 2024

To the setting

- * Staff can arrange groupings appropriately.
- * Staff can plan for individual/special needs.
- *It is an opportunity for staff to become aware of the children's interests and plan a child-led curriculum from the start.

It is highly beneficial to meet you and your child prior to them starting at Dover Park. It allows me to start to build up a relationship with your child and to plan a curriculum which caters for the needs and interests of each individual child. When your child visits us I am able to talk to them about their pets and toys, as well as reminding them of the time I visited them. The ice is already broken and the transition has started.

Reception Teacher at Dover Park Primary School

What to expect during a Home Visit

The home visit will last for approximately 30 minutes and will be arranged with you prior to the visit.

Two members of staff will visit, usually the class teacher and Deputy Head/SENCO.

A standard set of questions will be covered to gain information about your child.

You will have an opportunity to ask any questions and share any concerns you have.

We will leave an information pack with you and some forms for you to complete.

We hope that this booklet has provided you with a better understanding of how and why we carry out home visits at Dover Park Primary School.