

Key Person

Children thrive from a base of warm and loving care, provided by having close relationships with people whilst in the Early Years. When a parent / carer cannot be there, a **key person** is someone that takes on the role of a main carer. They provide comfort and support when the child is distressed and upset. They get to know the child's sensitivities and personality well so they can understand and meet their key child's needs.

The key person provides for a child:

- Close attachment
- Familiarity
- Supported learning
- Comfort
- Encouragement
- Learning opportunities
- Consistent boundaries

The experiences and relationships a child has between the ages of 0-5 years will have a significant effect on shaping aspects of that child's future: from their personality and resilience, to their ability to socialise with others. As such, the role of the key person is vastly important and has profound effect on a child's development pathway.

Every child who attends our nursery has their very own key person. Staff work within set rooms therefore there is always a backup key worker that the children also have an excellent relationship with. Staff work closely together at all times.

This is a nominated member of staff who has special responsibility for their key group ensuring that every child's learning and care is tailored to meet their individual needs. In the case of your key person being on holiday or sickness leave, there will be a named key person within each group allocated daily. Your child's key person is allocated when they begin nursery. They will settle them into the nursery and will be responsible for meeting their holistic needs throughout the day.

Your child's key person will communicate regularly with you through Tapestry about what your child has been doing whilst at nursery and through regular discussions at drop off and collection times. You can view and track your child's progress through your Tapestry account where you can view tracking and your child's learning journey.

If you have any questions, worries or would just like a chat please talk with your child's key person – they are your special person too. They can provide you with support and any guidance you need.

When your child moves areas within the nursery their child's key person may change we will inform you of any changes to your child's key person.

Staff will be supported in their role as key person through shadowing, induction, In house training and peer on peer mentoring.

**This policy was revised & updated on the 15th August 2022
Eversley Nursery School**