 Kenilworth Nursery School:

Parental Partnership: Action Planning for 2013/14

(based upon findings from Parental Survey (31% returned) 2012/13)

Support/Actions: (what makes the difference?) (what can we improve learning from feedback?)

July 2013: Open day for parents and children to attend a session and evening for Parent information.

 Nurture Nursery parents ‘tea together’

 Distribute complete information packs and forms for parents to allow ‘space’ at the home visit to talk freely

August 2013

September 2012: home visit with 1:1 discussion for parent and opportunity to share concerns and for initial relationship with child to

 be made. Promote e-mail contact as an option for parents. Collect e-mail contacts for parents to receive newsletters and

 monthly updates electronically.

September 2013; New Home School partnership agreement with focus on Parental support and involvement.

September 2013: settling program with first session accompanied.

September 2013: write to 2012/13 parents and ask for reflection on transition and of Nursery experience.

September 2013 : Newsletter with settling in feedback

October 2013 : Newsletter that promotes parent workshop

November 2013: Building Learning Power Workshops.

November 2013: Newsletter: explain parent surveys and why and how learning stories are shared

November 2013: complete PICL survey to gauge parental feelings with regards to advocacy

November 2103: first learning stories to go home to be shared as produced.

December 2013: Newsletter: Summary of highlights of term and additions to curriculum

January 2014: Newsletter: Promote volunteering opportunities to enrich curriculum.

February: Individual parent consultations offered for all children

February: revisit PICL and measure changes in parents ‘feelings’ on a range of issues

February 2014: Newsletter: Parent feedback and forth coming home school projects

March: Learning stories to go home

March 2014: Newsletter: Social play examples and evidence to share

April 2014 Newsletter: Communication workshops for parents to be promoted

May 2014: communication or enquiry workshops

June 2014: Shared home school project:

July 2014: Sharing the learning Journeys

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| Parental feedback 2012/13: areas to improve | Response/actions |
| * “A shame that there was no cooking this year as there was in Francis year”
* “I would have liked more information for parents. The BLP workshop on learning was so interesting. I would have liked more which may sound strange but as a parent I have tended to do things for my child and keep helping them rather than letting them ‘persevere’. The coat technique was brilliant!”
* “I felt the 2pm finish was a little disruptive and felt awkward about arriving at this time” …” I was pleased that I was given the opportunity to extend the session to 3pm and that Natalie was given the opportunity to join lunch club which is an important transition step towards school”
* “really enjoyed observing the last forest school session in action… perhaps that could be an idea for parents as we hear all about it but there is nothing like seeing and experiencing it yourself”
* “Could the fifteen hour entitlement be distributed over 6 sessions with a paid lunch club in the middle so that all children finish at 3:15 together and disruption is reduced?”
* “One niggle I had was when I was offered a place in the Summer it was not clear that I could extend hours from 9am until 3pm. It would have been helpful to know from the outset”
* “Newsletters via e-mail aswell please, mine had a tendency to disappear from Daisy’s draw” …. “Having twins did make drop off and collection a challenge but support from staff was fantastic”
* “Any amount of feedback on even a weekly basis would be valuable. I was told there would not be continuous verbal feedback in preparation for school but hey are not in school yet!”
* “It would be useful to have forest school content printed out and put in drawers or on the back of the half termly newsletters as more parents would read it then and have time to take it in”
* “transitions for children may need to be supported a little bit more as some children really do need re-assurance regarding activities”
* “The only point I have is some friends who work couldn’t use the Nursery as the sessions were too short to cover half days so they would need additional childcare”
* “Make it clear to prospective parents that you offer flexible hours, 2.5 hours did not work for me and it is only because I knew different arrangements were possible that I kept trying because Bertie Road offers the best pre-school education in Kenilworth”
* “I would have liked more opportunities to network with other parents and families, maybe an open afternoon or school fair would be an idea”
* “provide more flexible hours. Sessions could be put together into whole days”
* “I have enjoyed reading the learning experiences. I think if the weekly experiences were placed outside the classroom in the reception area parents would have more time to read them”
 | * Planning needs to include a half termly opportunity to bake but this may be dependent on parent volunteers and the payment of voluntary contributions to fund the ‘cooking’
* Workshops for Parents must be termly and we may consider an additional Saturday ‘Learning Together” day which parents would need to pay for in partnership with WEAVE.
* Parents can extend until 3pm but financially it becomes difficult if we insist on charging for lunch club it may result in more disruption if parents collect and then drop off again around lunchtime if they can not afford to pay. Also ethically putting a paid hour in the middle of free hours is inappropriate. We can only think about a separate collection space. Which we have trialed in the past using the operable wall.
* Autumn term we will offer an additional Forest School workshop for Parents as an introduction before the program begins for children they will also be asked to consider volunteering.
* All promotional leaflets and advertising promotes additional hours, breakfast and teatime clubs and these have been extended to cover 8am until 5pm
* Newsletters will be monthly and deadlines have been set for material and an outline of monthly content listed above.
* Parents e-mails will be collected on home visits and the new admission form has a space for their inclusion so we can correspond this way
* Forest School will produce a half termly reflection (A5) that will be sent out, we can not send out future planning as the activities are child led and to overly plan would limit the impact of such provision.
* Staff are varying approach on an individual basis and with advice and guidance from our Child Psychotherapist we feel we are balancing transitions well and in a way that is tailored to each unique child and their emotional well being
* We have nearly 30% of parents next year taking advantage of the flexibility, this will always be slightly limited especially as our curriculum is dynamic and best accessed across the week. We have to carefully balance the needs of adults against those of the children we provide education for. (primary schools do not face the challenge of only seeing certain children on certain days based around parents working patterns)
* The planning and weekly experiences for the Nursery will be located in the Reception area to promote the work of the school and allow better access. Enlarged sections from planning will also be displayed in areas around the nursery so learning is always explicit.
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Further Detailed Comments from parent responses

Making learning visible: documentation (SIDP target)

Parents say….

* “The displays on the walls around the nursery have been excellent and seem to go up so quickly after the activity has been completed. I really know what my child has been learning.”
* “The ‘Learning Journey” documents are fabulous. It is wonderful to see what they do when they are in your care. The photos pictures and models up all around the Nursery are lovely and give parents a point of reference when discussing their child’s learning”
* “I think the ‘learning Journeys”, displays around the nursery. Photographs and the chance to add parent comments and observations to learning activities, eg. Clay modeling and jelly making, have been first class and have really immersed us in Max’s learning”
* “I have felt well informed and included the Learning Stories gave us a great insight into what Erin was doing and how she was developing”
* “I have enjoyed reading the learning experiences. I think if the weekly experiences were placed outside the classroom in the reception area parents would have more time to read them”
* “The learning journals have been great to read and give a real insight into Eliza’s progress. The language can sometimes seem formal and ‘pasted’ from other documents, they are best when they are more individualized”
* “You already did this well but have excelled yourselves once again! The Learning Journals you provide are simply amazing. The work that goes into them and the wall displays make learning so evident and so enjoyable to share for all. I have a fantastic understanding of Leigh’s journey from all the documentation.” ……
* “ Now Teacher and Headteacher alike can benefit from your training booklet and we are very proud and privileged to be part of that manual, thank you”
* “This has been done brilliantly. The Learning Journey is a wonderful visual display of Nathan’s learning and it is really easy to see the changes through the pictures and narrations.”
* “Yes, great communication”
* “I liked seeing the Learning Stories more often, I know there are copies of planning by the door but they are detailed and nobody really has time to read them so good to have things coming home through out the year”
* “Loved seeing and being involved in Daisy’s learning journey. It is great to see visually how far she has come along and grown. Helpful also to support her learning at home.”
* “The learning Journey documentation has been very useful to understand Sophie’s development, it would have been useful to view the whole document at regular intervals.”
* “The colour coded Learning Stories and encounters have made Jonny’s learning easier to understand”
* “Very well, I have a good understanding of what is happening during the day with the boards of photos on the walls. You also provided a session to explain “building learning power” which really helped with my understanding of how you are developing children to become learners.”
* “The Learning Journey has been a delight to read and will always be treasured. Tom enjoyed looking at his learning journey recently”
* “We have been very impressed with every aspect of the Nursery documentation and have been very much supported in Lucy’s learning.”
* “You have spent lots of time capturing Natalie’s learning to share with us. It was delightful to see her learning journey each term and speak with you in consultations.”
* “The information and photographs that you have given me are so lovely and it is nice to see what he gets upto in Nursery as otherwise I really have no idea what he does”
* “Very much. I don’t know how you do it with so many children but I really felt Yannic was understood and his qualities appreciated.”
* “I feel very well supported to understand child’s learning and the Learning Journals were well written, informative and interesting. A good insight into the child’s experiences at Nursery”

Other general comments:

* “A lovely Nursery where children are encouraged to learn and grow.”
* “Thank you for being so flexible and accommodating to our needs as a family with an older home educated child, Francis was always welcomed at school when we dropped off Yannic- I very much appreciated this”
* “I would like to say thank you for the wonderful, wonderful start that Natalie has had. The Nursery year is crucial and every experience has stimulated, delighted and with a sense of wonder she looked forward to coming every day and has wonderful memories.”
* “Everything about the nursery is perfect…thoroughly enjoyed the whole year, such a happy and fun place.”
* “Thank you to all staff for all your hard work and genuine care”
* “Mrs Reeder your advice and encouragement have been invaluable”
* “KCCNS and its fantastic staff have created a wonderful, inspiring and nurturing environment for my Daughter. The methods employed have truly developed creative, physical and ‘academic’ abilities within Jessica and she leaves KCCNS as prepared for education as she could possibly be. Very Impressed!

…” Above all the people who work with the children are exceptional and I feel very lucky to have had Jessica with you.”

* “We feel very privileged that both our boys have been to this outstanding nursery school. It has given them the very best experiences and the teaching and support from staff have been second to none”
* “The environment the children learn in is fantastic. The staff are easy to talk to and approach and very friendly and helpful. The fact Daisy skips through those doors each day says it all for me… happy child= happy mummy”
* “My daughter has enjoyed her time at pre-school very much. Pre-school is a very supportive environment with extremely kind and dedicated staff- I thank you for this very much’
* “A great year for my son which he has absolutely loved. He has gained main skills, social and academic that will stand him in good stead for the reception year.”
* “Nathan has loved attending Nursery. He has thrived in the supportive environment and his confidence with adults and other children has improved dramatically, especially since switching to mornings.”…”Thank you I love the imaginative learning eg. The chicks and the clay!”
* “Leigh’s amazing transformation, “I can’t” turned into “I can do it!”. Leigh can do it and is doing so every single day. Leigh has enjoyed all the wonderful activities that she has been involved in and now runs off on arrival everyday no longer needing Mum as back up.”
* “Just keep doing what you are doing as children are at the heart of everything you do!”
* “This has been a great year for Eliza. She has learned so much and benefitted so many ways from her time at Nursery School. The staff are all caring and fully engaged in bringing out the best in each child. This is what learning through play should be!”
* “Isobel has thoroughly enjoyed this past year and we have been very well supported by Mrs Reeder especially and all the staff on several occasions. Thank you for allowing the extended family to come in and share our traditions with you.”
* “There is a welcoming friendly atmosphere and a fantastic learning environment, the staff are all extremely supportive and we really feel that they knew and understood Erin.”
* “Quite simply we have been absolutely delighted with Max’s emotional development over the past year and its thanks to all the staff’s attentiveness, planning and nurturing of him. We couldn’t have asked for a more positive Nursery year for him, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.”
* “It is very difficult to fault the Nursery. All staff work hard, are clearly committed, enthusiastic and provide the most wonderful caring learning environment.”
* “Jamie has loved his time at Nursery, this is largely down to the quality of the staff at KCCNS. Thank you.”
* “Moving the office/reception to the front of the building has really improved things.”
* “Bertie Road offers the best pre-school education in Kenilworth”
* The Nursery is a magical place where children’s eyes sparkle”

Favourite Aspects as identified by the children:

* Forest School
* Dance
* Literacy
* The garden
* Painting
* teachers