

Friday 11th September 2020.

**Changes to DFE guidelines and our response.**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to make you aware of changes in DFE legislation that affect our Early Years class directly.

Last term, the guidance from DFE was that we could not allow shared placements in our Early Years setting.

In the guidance for re-opening of schools in September this rule has changed. Schools are now allowed to permit children that need to use 2 settings for childcare reasons to attend school. The decision can be made by the school and discussed on a case by case basis and can be reviewed as required. At the start of term, I was approached by a family who wish for their child to attend 2 settings.

As you all know, I take the safety of the children and staff in school as well as members of or wider community extremely seriously, so I have sought advice from Northumberland County Council, our Chair and Vice Chair of Governors, the EY Team and the Headteachers of the schools within the Alnwick Partnership.

I have spoken to the alternative provider and have also seen their Risk Assessments (I have shared our school one with them so they are happy with the procedures we have in place) and both myself, the EY staff and my key governors are able to recommend that a shared place may be allowed in this instance.

Please let me know if the change in the DFE Guidelines mean that you would like to share our provision.

If so, you **mus**t contact me direct as I need to follow the same arrangements as before. Until I am happy with the situation your child **will not** be able to start a shared place.

Remember, our part time places are Monday, Wednesday and Friday and cannot be changed. If we are nearing capacity (as we are now) we will offer places to children attending Monday – Friday in the first instance.

As always, please do not hesitate to speak to me if you wish to discuss this matter further. I am on duty mornings and afternoons (with the older children) or available in the office Monday – Thursday 10-2 unless I am attending a meeting.

Best wishes,

Belinda Athey – Headteacher.