

COMMUNITY LINKS POLICY

Amendment History

| Revision | Author | Description of change | Date updated |
|-------------|--------------------------|---|---------------|
| Original | Nikki Chadwick | Update Ofsted number | April 2005 |
| 1 | Karen Walls | Amendment history added and general changes in policy wording | May 2006 |
| KASC policy | Carol Hooper | Adapted from adopted Kineton Playgroup policy | August 2006 |
| 2 | CH/SM | General changes in policy wording | May 2007 |
| 3 | CH | Merge KASC and playgroup policies, add refs to Lighthorne Heath Children's Centre and Pune, update footer | August 2008 |
| 4 | CH/ SM/ Alison Foulds | Add reference to Community and Adult Education, 'Get Kineton Growing' | June 2009 |
| 5 | CH/AF | Reference to steering group name change. | July 2010 |
| 6 | CH | Reviewed, no changes | July 2011 |
| 7 | CH | Reviewed, no changes | July 2012 |
| 8 | CH/HS | Minor changes | June 2013 |
| 9 | CH/KG | Change of Toddler Group name | November 2014 |
| 10 | CH | Deletion of reference to Extended schools agenda | November 2017 |
| 11 | CH & SF | Change of wording from 'committee' to 'board' | February 2018 |
| 12 | CH & SF | Added reference to the local cluster group and 'Toddle In' | January 2020 |
| 13 | CH | Remove reference to 'Toddle In' | July 2022 |
| 13 | CH, TH & XF | Add Lighthorne Toddler Group, clarify liaison with Kineton Primary School | July 2023 |

COMMUNITY LINKS POLICY

Throughout this policy references to 'Playgroup' includes Kineton Playgroup, KASC and Breakfast Club.

At Playgroup, we value the importance of developing strong links with other local settings, and local, regional, national and international communities. We involve our children in the local community, so that they learn how to participate in a practical way in the life and concerns of their neighbourhood and communities. Working with parents, local residents, the local primary schools, the business community, public services and voluntary services teaches the children to become active citizens.

Aims

- To help children today to prepare for the future
- For all of us to care about our setting and the environment
- For our children, our parents and our staff all to work together
- To acknowledge that our neighbours are important to us
- To accept that Playgroup is not an isolated organisation but part of the village community in Kineton and the wider community of South Warwickshire.
- To reinforce the importance of Playgroup and its children, staff and committee being recognised as part of the local and wider community.
- To develop links with:
 - Parents
 - Our neighbours
 - Local primary schools
 - Secondary schools
 - The school health service
 - Lighthorne Heath & District Children's Centre
 - Pre-school groups
 - Other Foundation Stage settings
 - Local childminders
 - Local school activity/interest clubs
 - Other local providers of out of school activities e.g. the local Guide and Scout organisations, sports clubs (Kineton Sports & Social Club football and cricket sections), dance schools
 - Village organisations, such as the local churches and parish council.
 - The press
 - Industry and local businesses
 - Other agencies
 - Voluntary/charitable organisations
 - National and international communities

Parents

The 'open door' policy at Playgroup encourages parents' interest in their child's activities and in Playgroup life as an occasional helper at pre-school

sessions or member of the board of Kineton Playgroup Limited. We recognise that children attending our setting and their parents are our principal contacts with the local community. They communicate what is happening in our setting to the wider community, as well as promoting the reputation of Playgroup. The manager and staff fully support the board; a representative from the staff is invited to attend each board meeting, and all members of staff are invited to help at fundraising events.

Local Providers

It is essential to develop links with other local providers delivering aspects of early years' childcare and education). This is done through:

- Informal contacts
- Local cluster group
- Training and conferences
- Meetings and regular communication
- Induction processes
- Exchange visits and letter writing
- Supporting and advertising events run by other organisations

The Manager is responsible for these links, although other staff or board members may also be involved.

Community and adult education

We endeavour to facilitate courses in adult and community education, such as paediatric first aid and getting ready for school. Other courses may be run according to demand.

Primary Schools

Kineton Playgroup Limited, parent company of Kineton Playgroup and KASC, has fostered very close links with Kineton Primary School. There are regular visits for staff and children between Kineton Primary School and Playgroup, to facilitate the transition to school. KASC continues to foster and develop these links as appropriate to the older age group of children involved.

Practitioners who also work at Kineton Primary School are responsible for day-to-day liaison with the school.

Baby & Toddler Groups

Kineton Playgroup Limited has also fostered close links with Kineton Baby & Toddler Group & Lighthorne Heath Toddler Group. Members of staff attend drop-in sessions at these groups throughout the year and a member of the Leadership Team attends the Kineton Baby & Toddler Group's AGM as their required 'external person'.

Secondary Schools and Colleges

Students from Years 10 and 11 from local secondary schools visit us for work experience in the summer term and also as part of their Childcare coursework

or Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme during the year. Other students work at Playgroup as part of their NVQ or BTec courses.

Press

The board is responsible for contact with the local press. This involves notifying the local paper of special events and activities taking place at Playgroup and fundraising events, communicating whatever information is required. This liaison celebrates Playgroup's achievements, and establishes good relationships with the local press.

Other Agencies

We feel it is crucial at Playgroup to consolidate links with other people who support, or work in or within our setting. These include:

- The Vicar and members of St Peter's Church, the Methodist Minister and representatives of the Catholic church
- Village surgeries
- Road Safety Officer
- Police
- Educational Psychologist
- Staff from other settings
- Other professionals and support staff from the Health Services

These links vary from time to time depending upon need and circumstance.

Playgroup is part of the wider community, and the links we forge help to strengthen and support the education we provide for all children.

Voluntary work

Children are encouraged to participate in fund raising events, such as local and national charities, eg. Children in Need