

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

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 school (Intadance)
 - Village organisations, such as the local churches
 - 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, rota 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
- Training and conferences
- Meetings and regular communication
- Induction processes
- Exchange visits and letter writing
- Supporting and advertising events run by other organisations

The Manager and Chairperson are 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. We also advertise courses run by Lighthorne Heath Children's Centre.

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.

One of the KASC Senior Practitioners, Sarah Carroll, also works at Kineton Primary School, and is responsible for day-to-day liaison.

Baby & Toddler Group

Kineton Playgroup Limited has also fostered very close links with Kineton Baby & Toddler Group through regular communication with the Manager. The Playgroup Manager or other members of staff attend drop-in sessions at Kineton Baby & Toddler Group throughout the year and the Manager attends the Group's AGM as their required 'external person'. From time to time the Group are invited to visit the setting.

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 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 the Roman Catholic Priest
- 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. Myton Hospice, Children in Need, 'Operation Christmas Child'.