

## LONDON STEINER SCHOOL

### EARLY YEARS SETTLING IN POLICY

Children settle into kindergarten in different ways and timescales. Many children settle into the kindergarten rhythm during the first week, some take a little longer and need support. If a child finds separating from their parents/carers distressing a discussion will take place with the kindergarten teacher to adopt a strategy. This may include the parent/carer being present on walk days or being part of outdoor play, at times being present in the room for the morning session. A time frame will be discussed with the teacher.

Children can find the separation from their parents/carers the most difficult part of their morning, especially when new to the group though they do calm down once their parents/carers have left. At times a child is left in tears though they will be comforted and supported by their teacher and/or the assistant teacher. If wanted parents/carers can be contacted by a member of the office staff by telephone to reassure them that their child is happy and coping.

We expect that children should be able to say goodbye comfortably by the end of the first half term by the latest.

It is important that during the period of settling into the kindergarten rhythm parents/carers remain positive and willing about the process, to show understanding and support towards the child's feelings and assure them that they will return after storytime or at the end of after school club and part with a hug, kiss and a confident smile, prolonging the parting, prolongs the amount of time a child takes to adjust to saying goodbye. If parents/carers show confidence in trusting the settling in process the children assimilate these feelings and in turn feel safe with the process.

The first few weeks of the kindergarten can be tiring for some children, especially the 3- and 4-year-olds, so the teacher may recommend they have a shorter week if needed.

For children with E.A.L it may be possible for that child to be placed with a teacher or child who speaks their home language, teachers will communicate closely with parents and may provide copies of songs, stories and ring time verses for parents/carers to translate at home. At the initial meeting with parents/carers may be asked to teach their child simple phrases in English, such as "I need the toilet" or "I am thirsty."

Children start on different days throughout the first week. This is to give them more individual attention when they first arrive.

Teachers will be available to talk at any stage of the settling in process. There is time for brief informal chats at the end of the kindergarten session and appointments can be made for more in-depth conversations with the teacher.

Children are generally excited and ready about starting kindergarten. We will do our best to support children and their families in making this transition as gentle and as happy as possible.

Please be aware that due to the on-going Covid situation and any outcomes due to restrictions parents/carers might not be able to enter the premises or enter the classroom. You will be informed if any changes need to be made in-line with government guidelines.

<b>Review by/date</b>	<b>Diana Buonaparte 09/21</b>
<b>Approved by/date</b>	<b>College of Teachers 09/21</b>
<b>Approved by/date</b>	<b>Trustees 10/21</b>
<b>Next review</b>	<b>August 2023</b>