

SHALFLEET C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Pre-school/reception class transition policy:

Philosophy

To be able to enjoy the school experience, children must have a reassuring and easy introduction to it.

Principles

Children should be introduced gradually to the school experience in order to minimise concerns they, and their carers, may have about this change in their life.

In order to achieve this, children and carers should have:

- Opportunity to familiarise themselves with the classroom environment;
- A sufficient staff ratio to provide for their needs, including wherever possible staff with whom they are already familiar;
- Staff who are specially trained to deal with this age group;
- Appropriate play opportunities and resources;
- A chance to have fun;
- Facilities to allow rest and refreshment;
- Awareness amongst all staff of a child's special needs.

Procedures

- Close links are maintained with the on site Pre-School to ensure there is a co-ordinated approach within the Early Years practice in both School and Pre-School. The reception teacher and Pre-school manager have regular meetings, and shared time for the children of the Little Explorers and Rainbow Class is organised at least weekly, as well as regular shared special short topics.
- Parents/carers who are considering sending their child to our class are encouraged to visit the school beforehand to look around and talk to the teachers if desired, and consider if our approach would be appropriate for their child.
- In the half-term before a child is eligible to join our school, those who have registered at Shalfleet CE School will be offered the opportunity to join a Rising 4 session within Rainbow class, alongside children already in school, for at least 2 full mornings, in order to practise being in class without parents.
- In the half-term before a child is eligible to join our school, parents/carers are invited to a meeting with teaching staff from Rainbow class to discuss routines within the class and have an opportunity to ask any questions they may have. Following this, parents/carers are offered the chance of a private meeting with teachers to discuss their child's individual needs.
- If carers and staff consider it appropriate, a child may start school on a part time basis, with the opportunity to spend other sessions in pre-school or with carers. The aim will be to introduce the child into full time school gradually as agreed.
- Once the child has started at school, parents are asked to bring them in to class, and stay as long as they wish, providing ample opportunities for staff and carers to discuss the child's welfare and progress.

Ratified by the Governors: