Dunoon ELC Family Engagement Nursery

This policy was adopted at a meeting of:

Dunoon Primary Early Learning and Childcare

January 2026

Signed: *Isla McGarry*

Designation: Principal Teacher

Statement of Purpose

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 3 The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.
Article 5 (parental guidance and a child's evolving capacities) Governments must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents and carers to provide guidance and direction to their child as they grow up, so that they fully enjoy their rights. This must be done in a way that recognises the child's increasing capacity to make their own choices.
Article 12 (respect for the views of the child) Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously.
Article 29 (education and children's development) Education should help develop every child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to the full. It should develop children's respect for their own rights and those of others, for their parents, for their own culture and the cultures

Statement of Purpose

At Dunoon Primary ELC, we recognise that working in partnership with parents and carers is of major value and importance. This collaboration enables us to co-create a happy, caring, and stable environment where both children and their families feel a true sense of belonging.

We aim to foster reciprocal relationships so that information regarding a child's development, social wellbeing, and health is exchanged easily and comfortably. We also value parents as partners in our self-evaluation process, inviting their voices to shape our setting's improvements. In line with a rights-based approach, we work together to ensure every child's voice is heard and that they are supported in a way that respects them as an individual.

The family is the first and most important educator for the child... When we work in partnership, we can build a more complete picture of the child's learning." *Education Scotland (2020). Realising the Ambition: Being Me.*

"There is a 'golden thread' of high-quality, consistent support that connects the child's home life, their personal plan, and their experiences within the setting." *Care Inspectorate & Education Scotland (2025). A Shared Quality Improvement Framework for ELC.*

Consistency of Approach

The list below shows ways in which Dunoon Primary School ELC will try to achieve a strong working partnership with parents:

- **Dunoon Primary School Head Teacher, Principal Teacher and ELC staff are always available for discussion with parents. Parents/carers can contact us on 01631 704159**

or enquiries-dunoon@argyll-bute.gov.uk where arrangements can be made for more private discussions at agreed times if required.

- Information provided by parents/carers about their children will be kept confidential and treated on a strict need to know basis.
- Dunoon Primary School ELC staff will share information with parents regarding activities their child has taken part in by verbal communication, observation books or on SeeSaw.
- Parents/carers are encouraged to share learning and achievements from out-with Dunoon Primary School ELC, contributing to their child's Personal Learning Journal on SeeSaw.
- Plans for learning opportunities initiated by the interests and developmental needs of the children in Dunoon Primary School ELC will be recorded in the children's Learning Logs and posted to SeeSaw for parents/carers to view/read.
- Dunoon Primary School shares regular newsletters these are issued to keep parents/carers up to date with information about the nursery, e.g. nursery news, new developments or staff changes.
- If staff from Dunoon Primary School ELC have any concerns about a child's wellbeing during the day, every effort will be made to contact the parents/carers or their emergency contact.
- Dunoon Primary School ELC will where possible, further encourage the children's development, by engaging with parents/carers and asked to send in objects from home, e.g. photographs, old boxes and cartons, materials to support current interests and learning.
- Parents/carers are requested to keep Dunoon Primary School ELC staff informed of any changes to personal circumstances which may influence a child, e.g., change of address, telephone number, doctor, emergency contact.
- Parents/carers are also requested to keep Dunoon Primary School ELC staff informed of any circumstances which could influence a child's emotional well-being, e.g., bereavement, separation or illness in the family.
- Your child's keyworker will share information regarding your child's journey at nursery with your child and your family from entry to ELC and where possible, throughout their time in Dunoon Primary School ELC.
- Dunoon Primary School will offer regular contact times, for the parents/carers, child and keyworker to collaborate before each child starts at their induction and throughout the year.
- Informal contact with the keyworker/parent happens daily.
- Parents are welcomed into the nursery during pick ups and drop offs if they wish. In collaboration with parents, routines for transitions can differ depending on what works best for the individual child as some prefer to be met at the gate.
- Parents/carers are welcome to stay and play with their child, this should be organised with ELC staff.
- Open sessions are held throughout the year.
- Formal Parent Chats are organised in order for parents/carers, children and ELC staff to talk about each child's progress and next steps in learning.
- Parents/carers are encouraged to become involved in the general life of Dunoon Primary School ELC as well as special organised events such as; Christmas Sing-a-longs, Sponsored Walks, Easter Egg Hunts and Sports Day.

- Dunoon Primary School ELC staff will work in partnership ensuring parents have opportunities to become familiar with relevant curriculums, pedagogy's and information. Facilitating workshops if applicable and relevant.
- Dunoon Primary School ELC shares its' policies, all policies are available online. Dunoon Primary School will collaborate with Parents and children where possible in the development of their policies.

"Parents and carers know and understand their child best. As the child's first educators, parents and carers are key partners in supporting their child's learning. As pedagogical leaders, it is essential that we develop positive relationships with parents and carers and work closely alongside them and value their contribution. Understanding the complexities, diversities and cultural differences of individual families and how this can impact each child is essential. The conversations we have with each family form the foundations of our relationships with them. During these conversations it is essential that we respect, understand and empathise to ensure our relationships are built on trust." (Realising the Ambition – Being Me)

"Family learning is a partnership approach which can lead to positive outcomes for both adults and children. It can be used as an early intervention and prevention approach which reaches the most disadvantaged communities. Family learning helps close the attainment gap through breaking inter-generational cycles of deprivation and low attainment. The effects of family learning are known to extend beyond the duration of the intervention and provide lasting impacts and improved outcomes (Family Learning Review, 2016)." (Realising the Ambition – Being Me)

"High-quality settings foster a culture of professional connection and mutual respect, where families feel confident to share their aspirations and contribute to the life of the setting." — (Realising the Ambition – Being Me)

At Dunoon Primary School ELC, we promote family learning by offering a range of opportunities such as:

- Book Bug sessions
- Parent Information Sessions
- Stay and Play sessions
- Family Fun Activities

These family learning programmes change regularly in response to the needs and wishes of the parents and children.

Health and Social Care Standards

1.0 I experience high quality care and support that is right for me.

1.25 I can choose to have an active life and participate in a range of recreational, social, creative, physical and learning activities every day, both indoors and outdoors.

1.30 As a child, I have fun as I develop my skills in understanding, thinking, investigation and problem solving, including through imaginative play and storytelling.

3.10 As a child or young person I feel valued, loved and secure

4.11 I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice

Links to national policy

This policy is informed by national legislation and best-practice guidance, including:

- Realising the Ambition: Being Me (National Practice Guidance)
- The Shared Quality Framework (Care Inspectorate/Education Scotland)
- The UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act
- Health and Social Care Standards

Quality improvement framework for ELC.pdf

Realising the Ambition | Resources | Education Scotland

Statutory guidance on Part 2 of the UNCRC (Incorporation)(Scotland) Act 2024

Health and Social Care Standards: my support, my life - gov.scot