

# STEELSTOWN NURSERY UNIT

## ASSESSMENT POLICY - (NURSERY SPECIFIC)

### Rationale

We believe that the quality of education is closely connected to the way in which assessment of children informs the curriculum. The whole child is important - social, emotional, physical, intellectual and moral development are interrelated. It is essential therefore to assess the whole child as he/she learns.

### Definition

By "assessment" we mean the identification of the progress and future learning needs of children through observations which are evaluated, recorded and shared with parents, so that each child's particular needs are met.

### Aims

We aim to ensure that new learning is provided in a meaningful context that is closely related to children's previous experience. Our assessment procedures are therefore closely linked to our planning and contribute to the creation of a profile of each child.

### Implementation

- Parents and children are the starting point for our records - parents will be asked to complete a booklet "All About Me".
- Assessment is based on observations and records of what the child can do.
- Staff will observe children as part of their normal daily work in play, self-chosen activities and adult directed activities.
- Any significant developments will be recorded as they happen ie adopting a holistic approach to learning.
- A baseline assessment including the Wellcomm Speech and Language Assessment will be completed by October after the child's entry to nursery allowing time for settling in.
- A formal assessment of each child's progress will be carried out at the end of term 2. **In addition a formal end of year report will be completed for all nursery pupils and placed in the school pupil profile for all pupils entering Primary One in Steelstown P.S. or forwarded to the relevant primary school for those pupils entering Primary One in another school.**
- Observations/assessment are used to highlight achievements and to indicate the need for further support.
- Assessments are used to inform planning.
- Records of a child's achievements are shared with parents throughout the nursery year including a written report in the third term.
- Children are involved and encouraged to express their own views on their achievements.
- Samples of a child's work and photographs of him/her at play will be kept.
- Information about pupils' progress will be shared with primary one teachers. This will inform primary one teachers' baseline assessment of the pupils.

**Staff development**

In order to effectively implement this policy the nursery staff will partake in appropriate staff development activities in line with the priorities established in the School Development Plan. The focus of such development activities will be to refine skills regarding making observations, using information effectively to inform planning and managing time effectively to ensure appropriate assessment and record keeping.

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

This policy will be monitored by the Nursery co-ordinator on an ongoing basis.

**Review**

This policy will be kept under constant review and will be formally reviewed by February 2020 by the Nursery co-ordinator and Principal.