

Guidance for Nurseries/Schools/Settings undertaking Home Visits

Due to the number of nurseries and schools undertaking home visits prior to children being placed in nursery or school the following guidance can be used to support the assessment of the home environment and to highlight any potential safeguarding issues or concerns to be referred or monitored.

For example Parental Responsibility-who holds parental responsibility, where is the evidence of this? If there are new partners, has adoption been sought as it is not automatic to gain Parental Responsibility. If parents who hold PR are not together, what access does the child have to the other parent and their home?

Siblings-it is important to seek details about both older and younger siblings so we have an accurate view of all the children in the family home (including step siblings and those accessed via other homes e.g. mam and dad not together, dad has new family with 2 siblings)

People who live in the family home-who lives in the family home, full time, part time occasionally, e.g. siblings, step siblings, grandparents, PARTNER. It is important to know which adults children have access to and how often.

Relationship to the children of adults who live in the family home-how are the children related e.g. grandparent, step parent but equally how does the child view or see the relationship e.g. parent might be step parent but child calls them or knows them as dad.

Medical Needs of all family members- do any of the children have any medical conditions, do parents have medical conditions that might impact on the children being collected to and from school or where children have caring responsibilities e.g. young carers.

Home conditions-describe the home conditions, the living room/kitchen/bathroom (if seen) the cleanliness, hygiene, how visitors are accepted into the home etc. This is not a personal judgement but a professional judgement based on observation.

Guidance, Boundaries, Stimulation-How is the child managed at home, praised/rewards/consequences. What boundaries are in place e.g. safety, accessing equipment, games. What toys/games/stimulation is evident?

Age appropriate milestones-How is the child achieving, are they at an age appropriate level, is there differentiation when the child is in nursery/school e.g. behaves younger at home etc.

Observations of the child’s care and presentation-is the child in appropriate clothes, clean, hygienic, encouraged to present well.

Follow up actions-has this visit resulted in further actions being taken from the school e.g. monitoring, safeguarding referral etc

Example Home Visit Proforma:

Name of Child:

Date of Birth:

Home Address:

People who hold Parental Responsibility (and their access to the child including any other home addresses accessed)

Siblings (Including name, date of birth and educational establishment accessed):

Who lives in the Family Home (Including overnights and weekends e.g. partner/grandparents/older sibling who lives away):

Relationship to the Children of adults living in the family home:

Medical Needs of all family members:

Who will be bringing and collecting the children to and from school:

Home Conditions of the family home:

Guidance, boundaries and stimulation provided:

Age appropriate developmental milestones:

Observations of the child’s care and presentation:

Any follow up actions to be taken after visit:

**Name of person undertaking visit:**

**Signature:**

**Date:**