

**Safeguarding Children - gift policy**

Dell Cottage Day Nursery provides children with gifts on several occasions throughout the year during their time at the nursery from their own funds. We feel this is an important part of developing our relationship with the children and their families to show their importance in the setting and that they are valued as individuals. Birthday gifts are given via the parents on the last session the child attends before their actual birthday. Christmas gifts are given out by Father Christmas after the Christmas Play performance. Those children leaving to go to school receive a pencil set on their last session before they leave to attend school full time.

So, children are given gifts on the following occasions: Birthdays, Christmas and when they leave to go to school. The price of each gift is usually up to a total amount of approx. £3.00 and gifts are usually of a similar type e.g. books for their birthdays and for Christmas they receive age appropriate toys. When the children are ready to leave to go to school, they usually receive a set with a pencil, ruler and rubber with a selection of designs from which the child chooses.

If parents choose to send in gifts to give out for other children to celebrate their own child's birthday then the nursery staff will decide whether to either give it out during the session at snack time or at the end of the session so that each parent can decide if they prefer their child to have it at home (e.g. sweets/small gifts). Birthday cake is usually shared out at snack time and the ingredients noted (if homemade) in case of allergies.

There may be occasions when children or parents wish to pass small tokens of appreciation to staff e.g. at Christmas time or as a 'thank you' when they leave the setting and this is acceptable. Generally, gifts like large boxes of chocolates are allocated amongst the staff especially at Christmas so everyone has a fair share. If specific gifts are brought in for a child's key person then this is checked by the manager to ensure that it is appropriate for the situation. However, it is unacceptable for staff to receive gifts on a regular basis or of any significant value. Similarly, it is inadvisable for staff to give personal gifts to individual children as this could be misinterpreted as a gesture either to bribe or to single out the young person for special attention. Also, it might be perceived that a 'favour' of some kind is expected in return.

Any rewards given to a child within the setting usually in the form of stickers etc. (e.g. for potty training) should be agreed practice within the establishment and with the parents'/carers' consent and be consistent with the setting's behaviour policy. The reason for doing this should be recorded and not based on favouritism.

The children also create and design other gifts to take home on special occasions during the year e.g. Mother's and Father's Day and Easter.

N.B. Some children from certain religious/cultural backgrounds may not celebrate birthdays, Christmas, Easter and other special days so the setting needs to consult with the parents/carers as to what is appropriate to do on these occasions.