



Gidea Park

PREPARATORY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

Settling in Policy (Nursery)

June 2026

At Gidea Park Preparatory School and Nursery, we aim to ensure your child's introduction to our school is as stress free as possible for both the parents and the child. Once you have successfully enrolled your child, we will invite you in for settle sessions prior to their start date.

For the first settle session, we will ask a parent to stay with their child for the session. This is also a good opportunity to meet your child's room team and fill in our 'all about me' forms. We ask that only one parent attend this session. The first settle is usually one hour; the rest of the sessions will be arranged with the child's potential key person.

We will usually follow this for four more days, increasing by 30 minutes each time or more depending on the comfortability of the child and parent. We are happy to work with parents to do less/more as needed and as requested by either the parent or the Nursery Manager. If we feel the child needs a little longer to build their confidence, we will offer extra settle sessions, this will be discussed with parents. To encourage a smooth transition, simple, exciting, fun activities will be provided specific to the child's interest. A key-worker will be allocated once all settles are successful and parents will be informed via email/family app.

A child who is tense or unhappy will not be able to play or learn properly, so it is important for parents/carers and staff to work together to help the child feel confident and secure in the group. This takes longer for some children and parents/carers should not feel worried if their child takes a while to settle. You must be prepared to accept that it may take some time for your child to adjust to the nursery but very few children fail to settle eventually. Please remember, the more your child comes and experiences the activities on offer and sees you interacting with the staff, the more settled s/he will feel.