



Dear Parents/Carers

## Being On Time For School

Dear Parents

At Aspire we are passionate about providing a positive and nurturing environment for our children. Lots of time and planning goes into putting strategies in place to support children throughout the school day. This is especially true at the start of the school day. Many children are anxious or dysregulated on arrival at school and we have lots in place to support them, including sensory input, meet and greets with Loki, check-ins with key adults, therapeutic interventions etc.

Our school day starts at 8.45, with the gates closing at 9am. After 9am your child will be marked late. After 9.30am their late arrival is counted as an absence and affects their attendance. (But that isn't the most important thing... the most important thing is what your child is missing out on.)

It is during this early morning time that key staff from every class are available to support children to have a positive start to their day. The classroom is also set up with early morning activities to help children settle in, connect with their friends and be ready for lessons to start.

When children arrive late they miss out on this important time, they will have missed their opportunity for check ins and transitional interventions and activities. They have to walk straight into a lesson, which is difficult for them and disruptive to the class. Or the class TA has to come away from supporting the class which isn't fair on the other children and the teacher who has planned for their support. Our TAs are really involved in lessons, either running small groups or supporting individuals which makes it really difficult for them to come and support a latecomer at the door.

From our experience of standing at the gate every morning to greet you all, most children are less anxious when they see the other children at the gate and can walk down the path as part of a group.

We understand that mornings can be hectic, and occasional delays are sometimes unavoidable. But for some children this is their daily experience. We just wanted to emphasise the importance of being in school on time.

Thank you for your support

Mrs Arkwright

