



Charity No: 1024628

Whalley Pre-School
The Old Grammar School
Station Road
Whalley
BB7 9RH

24th March 2021

Dear Trustees,

We are grateful to you for your help and support in taking the steps necessary to provide our children with access to the outdoors from our room. We are aware that you have made an application for approval to the planning department and hope that you will keep us informed of progress.

We cannot overstate the importance to us of gaining access to the outdoors from the Pre-School room. We consider this to be crucial to the children and to our future viability as a setting. The ability to access the outdoors from our room is essential in meeting the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework which is the statutory curriculum we are required to follow. This has been confirmed by Lancashire County Council's Early Years Team. We are judged against this framework by Ofsted and attach a copy of our latest inspection report from 2018 which states that we could not be graded outstanding for one reason only and this is because of the lack of development of an outdoor environment and states that we should "develop the outdoor area to help children have even greater opportunities to explore and learn". We are due another Ofsted inspection from September 2021 and the first thing that the Inspector will do is look to see whether we have followed the recommendations they made in the last report. If we have not, and even if this is for circumstances outside of our control, then this will reflect in their report and judgement. There is a real danger that we may then be judged as "requires improvement" which would have a devastating impact on the setting leading to the withdrawal of much of our funding and the real possibility of closure. We are gravely concerned about the future of Whalley Pre-School if we are not able to comply with Ofsted's instructions as to what we should do.

I am happy for you to use this letter in support of the application for planning permission.

Yours faithfully

Kerry Parkin
Manager