Dear Parent,

Welcome to Bowlers Community Nursery! We're thrilled that you've chosen Bowlers for your child and look forward to welcoming you to the Bowlers community in person soon.

At Bowlers, we believe that every young child has in common the need for plenty of love, care and a familiar routine, which incorporates their individual needs and interests. We operate a Key Person system so that children can forge strong and loving relationships with their key staff member, helping them feel secure away from home. But our team recognises that parents are the primary carers and educators and works closely with parents to learn about their child and life at home.

Our activities are based around the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum, but more importantly they have a child centred approach, the emphasis being on learning through play.

Bowlers is proud to be a very special and community-orientated nursery. Our care for your child is at the heart of everything we do, and we extend this support to the whole family. One of the reasons parents choose Bowlers and stay with us is because we encourage parents to be a part of their child's nursery environment, helping with play, learning, and to make Bowlers a wonderful place for children.

Parental involvement at Bowlers – opportunities and expectations

Bowlers is run by the Senior Management Team of Yolande Farrell (Manager) and Aoife Morgan (Deputy Manager). Yolande, Aoife and also Chris Aihoon, our accountant, are supported and guided by Directors, most of whom also Chair the voluntary Committees (all run by parents of Bowlers children). See the appendix for the structure and contacts in more detail.

As a parent at Bowlers, you are automatically on the Management Committee, which forms part of Bowlers oversight. Management Committee meetings take place three times a year. They occur once each term, two are in the evening after nursery and the third is an AGM on a Saturday morning in October. At least one parent from every two-parent family is expected to attend these meetings. Yolande will let you know when they're scheduled, via the monthly email newsletter, and a crèche is provided.

Bowlers is a community nursery in every sense of the word 'community'. The Social and Fundraising Committee organises regular Sunday lunches to enable families to get to know one another better, as well as other social events like picnics, Christmas drinks and the Summer post-AGM BBQ. Details are provided in the monthly newsletters, through emails, and on the nursery's Facebook page, a closed group which parents are invited to join (**facebook.com/groups/bowlersnursery/**).

Bowlers requires parents to contribute to the running of the nursery. There are a number of ways to get involved and keep Bowlers a brilliant nursery and to help us make it an even better caring environment for your child:

1. Join one of our committees
There are often specific vacancies in particular committees, but you're welcome to join any committee. Don't worry if you don't think you have relevant skills, we all think that at first! Parents learn from each other, and there are some opportunities for free training. This could be a great way to refresh your CV and gain new skills. If you're interested in joining a committee, please contact the committee chair (see appendix for contact details).

2. Run an activity with the children
If you have particular skills (for example, sports, music, acting, art, dance), speak to Yolande or Aoife about arranging to come in to run some activities with the children.

3. Be part of a Bowlers weekend
Several times a year we'll hold a weekend (typically one day) at Bowlers, centred around a specific activity. This might be tidying the garden, building a sandpit, clearing a backlog of maintenance work. We always need bodies for these, and again don't worry if you don't feel skilled: there are plenty of parents who do have skills and can help guide you.

4. Become a Director
We don't expect new parents to become Directors straight away; most parents get involved in Committees first. But if you are keen to become a Director do speak to either of the co-chairs and we'd be happy to discuss opportunities. We vote in new Directors annually at the AGM.
Finally, if you have any questions or want to do something new at Bowlers, please don't hesitate to contact either of us, or the relevant Committee Chairs.

With very best wishes,

Rosie & Catherine (co-chairs)
rosiewedderburn@yahoo.com
catherinekinsella79@gmail.com

Would you like to join any of these committees and help run Bowlers?

Staffing: We are responsible for advising and supporting senior management on HR and staff-related issues. We are looking for anybody with any kind of expertise in this area.

Facilities: We assist with the upkeep of the building and management of the wider site. Typical tasks are putting up notice boards, responding to any concerns about building defects and attending meetings with Ashmount and the Cape. If you are a handy (wo)man or have a knack with power tools, please join us!

Finance: We help Chris and Yolande with Bowlers financial management issues such as Annual Return, pension funds, etc. It sounds harder than it is: all you need to do is be able to add up numbers to join the group.

Marketing: We promote Bowlers to the outside world and help it communicate better internally. We will take anyone familiar with social media, web design, PR, graphic design, journalism, marketing, press, photography, etc.

Social & Fundraising: The social and fundraising committee are responsible for organising social events and activities for Bowlers parents to come along to and get to know each another better. These range from Sunday lunches and picnics to theatre trips and evenings out. We also hold regular events to raise funds for the nursery such as bake sales and the Christmas raffle. Please get in touch if you would like to get involved – no experience required!

Do not hesitate to contact any of us for more information!

Co Chairs	Rosie Wedderburn	rosiewedderburn@yahoo.com
	Catherine Kinsella	catherinekinsella79@gmail.com
Vice Chair	Jeni Brown	jeni.brown@gmail.com
Treasurer	David Coombs	d.h.coombs.01@cantab.net
Secretary	Rowan Yapp	rowan_yapp@hotmail.com
Safeguarding	Emma Lupton	emma.lupton@rbkc.gov.uk
Staffing	Akosua Bonsu	akosua_b@hotmail.com
Facilities	Suzie Zuber	suziezuber@yahoo.co.uk
Finance	David Coombs	d.h.coombs.01@cantab.net
Marketing	Victoria Maddox	hellovictoriamaddox@gmail.com
Social & Fundraising	Francine Sanches	sanches.francine@gmail.com

Please fill in and return to Yolande or Aoife

Your name . . . . . .

Your child's name . . . . . .

Committee. . . . . .

Email address. . . . . .