

Nurture Group 2021/22: Parent/guardian information



What is a Nurture Group?

A Nurture Group is a temporary alternative provision within the school setting. The Nurture Group philosophy contains a heavy emphasis on curriculum based activities. However, this goes hand in hand with a caring, supportive approach in a safe and welcoming environment. Children can explore their emotions and understanding of the world in a more relaxed and practical environment.

The Nurture Group mirrors the learning taking place in the classroom, but allows children to discuss and question the tasks in more depth and at their own pace. This helps the individuals build self-esteem and recognise their value as an individual.

As the children learn academically and socially, their confidence develops and their sense of achievement increases.

The Nurture Group has six core principles:

1. Children's learning is understood developmentally.
2. The classroom offers a safe base.
3. The importance of nurture for the development of self-esteem.
4. Language as vital means of communication.
5. All behaviour is communication.
6. The importance of transition in children's lives.

(The Nurture Group Network)

How do our Nurture Group sessions typically operate?

During Nurture Group, we work alongside the children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to recognise barriers to learning and explore solutions and strategies. We recognise achievements and milestones. We also place an emphasis on the children self-evaluating their own progress. This enables them to recognise their own self-worth and increases their ability to work independently in all areas.

The sessions are planned and structured to maximise the impact on the individuals, tailoring to the needs of the children who attend.

A typical session format will consist of:

1. Welcome
2. Circle Time
3. Topic based input (Video, discussion, outdoor experience etc.)
4. Related activity (Task, craft, cooking etc.)
5. Snack Time (Preparation, social skills, new experiences etc.)
6. Conclusion (Mindfulness, target setting/review, yoga etc.)

The afternoons include elements of the curriculum-based subjects i.e. Maths, English, Science etc. We pre-teach aspects of the curriculum to the children in order to develop confidence, knowledge and understanding. It is our hope that through pre-teaching topics, the children will transfer their confidence and knowledge to the classroom when studying the topic(s) they have experienced. Moreover, we also look forward to receiving visits from teachers and members of staff, who can join in with the Nurture Group provision.

During our sessions, emphasis is also placed upon friendship, sharing and collaboration.

Following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions, enhanced learning experiences (such as trips, visits and workshops to enrich cultural capital) are now able to take place. Such experiences do contribute to the holistic experience of Nurture Group and reap significant benefits for the individuals. We look forward to reintroducing these activities to the Nurture Group experience.

Parent/guardian involvement is also encouraged as this benefits the family as a whole.