





'Broadening Horizons'

Nurture Group Policy

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Policy Review Date:	March 2025	Headteacher Debra Bailey	Signed 	Insert Date 29/03/2022
Ratified by Governing Body:				
Sue Welford (Chair of Governors)		Insert Signature 	Insert Date 29/03/2022	

Introduction

The school has an Inclusion Manager and L3 Teaching Assistant to work with small groups of children who will benefit from being in a smaller group and in a less formal environment than the normal classroom can provide.

1. Purpose/aim of the Nurture Group

- To provide a flexible and preventative resource which is responsive to the particular needs of the children attending the school.
- To provide on going assessment and support for children showing signs of emotional stress and behavioural difficulties with the aim of enabling the child to access the curriculum and participate fully in school life.
- To provide a secure and reliable environment where children can learn by re-experiencing pre-school nurture from caring adults who actively work towards their successful integration into their mainstream class.
- To help children to learn to behave appropriately, use their curiosity constructively, improve their self-esteem and develop confidence through close and trusting relationships with adults.
- To work in partnership with class teachers and parents to enable consistency of approach, both at home and at school.

2. Description

- Nurture Groups are a unique, preventative resource based on well documented psychological theory and research.
- The Nurture Group is based in a separate room with a home-like area and an area set aside for formal learning.
- Children will attend for a maximum period of up to four terms.
- There will be a maximum of 10 children in the Nurture Group at any one time.
- The children will be on the register of their mainstream class and they will join their class for appropriate activities.
- The children will spend lunchtime and playtime with other children in the school. Some children may need extra support at these times.
- The Nurture Group will consist of the Inclusion Manager and full-time assistant who will work as a team. Neither adult will be available to cover for absent staff within the school.
- In the absence of the Inclusion Manager a L2 teaching assistant will then step in if neither are available it will not be possible for the group to function; therefore the children will return to their mainstream classes and be supported by the Nurture Group Assistant and other Key Adults. If the Teaching Assistant is absent, the Nurture Group will continue with the Inclusion Manager and a trained Classroom Assistant.

3. Non-contact time

Non-contact time will be required for the Nurture Group team to

- See parents
- Attend case conferences

- Keep records
- Carry out observations
- Meet with other professionals
- Liaise with other school staff
- Attend INSET

4. Outreach work

The Nurture Group will continue to build on existing multi-agency outreach work. Training, advice and support for colleagues in the local area will be offered. Nurture Group staff will develop links with other professionals as appropriate and work with them to enable the child and the family to be offered an effective package of support.

5. Steering Committee

The Steering Committee will meet to enable a cohesive and agreed vision to be formulated. The Steering Committee will meet twice yearly to ensure that progress is being made towards achieving the vision and to offer guidance and support as required. This is an addition to the weekly staff meetings, with children's teachers and Nurture Group Staff.

6. Referral procedures

- All referrals will be made in consultation with parents on a standard form.
- Formal assessment by an Educational Psychologist is not a pre-requisite for admission, but consultation and discussion of relevant factors may be necessary.
- All referrals will be discussed with the Head Teacher, SENDco Class Teacher and Nurture Group Team.
- A variety of assessment procedures will be used to inform referrals. These will include the Goodman's Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire, the Boxall Profile and appropriate academic assessments.
- Parents will be kept fully informed about the outcomes of these assessments and meetings.

7. Entry/admission criteria

- Parental agreement is not necessary for Nurture Group although parents will be notified by letter and arrangements will be made for parents to meet with the Inclusion Manager if they have any concerns or issues.

Placement will be considered for children who are underachieving for social, emotional or behavioural reasons. This will include:

- Children who are very restless, cannot listen, behave impulsively or aggressively
- Children who are withdrawn and unresponsive and who have difficulty relating to others
- Children whose known history suggests that they may be at risk.
- The Goodman's Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire and the Boxall Profile will be used to objectively assess children's needs and their suitability for placement in the Nurture Group.

8. Arrangements for review of pupils

- Each child will be monitored and reviewed on an on going basis. Consultations with the Educational Psychologist and other professionals will be arranged as appropriate.
- Formal reviews with parents will be undertaken

9. Reintegration/exit criteria

- Reintegration will be planned with the Head Teacher, parents, Class Teacher, Nurture Group team and other Key Adults consulting with the School Educational Psychologist where appropriate.
- Where reintegration is not considered appropriate an alternative action plan will be agreed.

10. Parental links

- All children attending the Nurture Group require resources beyond those usually provided by the school. The school will work in partnership with parents. This will be achieved through formal reviews either formally or informally and more frequent informal discussions concerning the progress of the children.
- The Head Teacher will be responsible for dealing with any complaints from parents. Complaints which remain unresolved will be referred through the school's normal procedures.

11. Role of the Headteacher

The Head Teacher has overall responsibility for the functioning of the Nurture Group within the school. The Head Teacher is responsible for:

- The operational management of the Nurture Group
- Management of Nurture Group staff as members of the school community
- Oversight of curriculum planning and monitoring of work
- Ensuring that the Nurture Group Lead participates in the school's appraisal procedure
- Ensuring Health and Safety procedures are followed in accordance with the school's policy
- Ensuring that the Nurture Group operates within the guidelines of the LEA's policy on equal opportunities and the school's SEN policy.

12. Role of the School SENCO

To liaise with the Nurture Group team. This will include the development and implementation of POPs; to be involved in formal reviews as required; to support curriculum development; to be involved with selection and reintegration.

13. Role of the Inclusion Manager and Teaching Assistant

The Inclusion Manager and the teaching assistant are responsible for the day-to-day management of the group. They have the following duties:

- To maintain the Nurture Group principle – this is to provide a carefully planned routine day where there is a balance of learning and teaching, affection and structure within a home-like atmosphere.
- To organize and plan the activities and curriculum of the classroom, bearing in mind the needs of the children.
- To keep records of individual children's progress.
- To coordinate the work of the assistant
- To liaise with other professionals when appropriate
- To actively work in partnership with parents in the development of their children.
- To help children manage successfully in less structured sessions including playtimes.
- To participate in INSET within school

- The Inclusion Manager is to coordinate Steering Committee meetings
- To carry out and contribute to school policies and procedures.

14. Role of the Nurture Group Assistant

The Nurture Group Assistant works in partnership with the Inclusion Manager. This role is to assist the Inclusion Manager in necessary tasks, including planning, and to participate in appropriate INSET.

15. Monitoring and Review of Provision

- The Nurture Group will be evaluated through OFSTED inspection.
- The Nurture Group Steering Committee will meet to ensure the Nurture Group principle is being maintained. It will also monitor the success of the provision and provide support and guidance.