



St Anne's Catholic Primary School

Nurture Group

Intention

At St Anne's Catholic Primary school our aim is to ensure that we provide an inclusive curriculum that can be accessible to all. For a small minority of children, the demands of a mainstream classroom can be overwhelming. At St Anne's we are able to provide a nurture group for EYFS and Key Stage One pupils who find the daily demands of mainstream challenging.

The Nurture Group Principles

- Children's learning is understood developmentally
- The classroom offers a safe base
- All behaviour is communication
- The importance of nurture for the development of wellbeing
- The importance of transition in children's lives
- Language is a vital means of communication

What are nurture groups?

Nurture groups were started in London in 1969 by Marjorie Boxall, an educational psychologist employed by the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA). The groups spread rapidly and quickly gained official approval, demonstrated by the highly influential 'Warnock' report, 1978. Presently, Nurture groups are an integral part of many primary and secondary schools all across the United Kingdom, helping children to develop and reach their full potential.

What does a nurture group do?

They are classes of between six and nine children, usually in a mainstream primary school, supported by the whole staff group and by parent. Nurture groups always have two members of staff. The children spend a substantial part of the week in the group but remain part of their mainstream class, joining the other children for the regular planned activities by their teacher. The adults' role is to ascertain any gaps in development, to engage with the children at the stage they have reached and to offer emotional acceptance and focused teaching.



Objectives

- To provide an environment that is safe, secure and with a home like atmosphere
- To provide an environment of consistent boundaries, discipline and learning
- To provide an environment which will develop the child's self-esteem and confidence through planned activities Joining the pieces together to help children reach their full potential St Anne's Catholic Primary
- To provide an environment that supports and listens to children and parents
- To provide an environment that aids the child's development emotionally and academically

Who attends

The children who attend our nurture group do so for a variety of reasons but they all have one thing in common; they find it difficult to perform to their full potential within their classroom, without a great deal of extra adult support.

Some of the reasons for attending may be:

- Poor social and language communication skills.
- Development delay.
- Language delay.
- Children with poor social skills that may in turn lead to behavioural problems if they are not supported.
- Children who for one reason or another have been unable to make a relationship of trust with a caring adult.
- Children who have suffered a trauma in their family such as bereavement or marriage breakdown, and who may need extra support to help them to cope with the situation.

How are the children selected?

Teachers may put forward the name of a pupil in their class who they feel would benefit from attending the nurture group. Criteria for attending is very strict and a great deal of assessment and consultation takes place prior to entry. Joining the pieces together to help children reach their full potential St Anne's Catholic Primary.

The assessment used is the Boxall Profile, which provides a framework for the structured observation of children in the classroom; and is a precise way of assessing need, planning intervention and measuring progress.

The aim of the nurture group is to enable the pupils who attend to be fully engaged with all aspects concerning the classroom and the rest of the school.

Parents are consulted at each stage of the child's time in the group and the teacher works closely with them to make sure that they understand the benefits of the group, and how best they can support their child whilst attending.



What happens when a child is selected?

All children who attend our nurture group are registered in their own classes and collected by nurture group staff. They spend each afternoon and all day Friday in their own classrooms.

The number of children that attend the group is usually limited to a maximum of nine at any one time, working with a minimum of two adults.

When the children first attend the group, the initial emphasis is on the development of their social skills.

The structured routine of the nurture group along with the high adult ratio enables some children to make rapid progress. For others the process may be more gradual and may extend for up to four terms.

Daily Routine:

8.30 – 9.00am	Children go to their normal classes and have Calm and Connect and registration here.
9.00am	A member of staff from the nurture group collects the children from class.
9.15am	Welcome, how we are feeling today and sharing news. One helper is chosen each day to help member of staff prepare breakfast
9.30am	Children wash hands
9.40am	Children all sit together for breakfast/snack
10.00am	Circle time/story
10.30am	Playtime – children to have playtime with their classes (member of nurture group to be on duty)
10.45am	Snack time all together
11.00am	Task boards, continuous provision, games
11.30am	Tidy up time
11.35am	Relaxation activities
11.55am	Return children to their classroom ready for lunch time

Reintegration

The whole purpose of the nurture group is to help the pupils who attend, to access fully the curriculum in their base class. Reintegration may be a gradual process with the pupil spending increasingly more time in their class, or it may take place quite quickly depending on the progress that has been made during their time in the nurture group. Once back in their class full time, the child's progress is carefully monitored.