



Northgate Primary School

NURTURE POLICY

Introduction

Nurture is about encouraging the development of a growing child in a safe, predictable and structured environment. It provides the foundations for successful learning.

The Nurture Group, Cosmic Corner, is an early intervention targeting children in Reception and KS1. It offers support for a child's positive, emotional and social growth and cognitive development, at whatever level of need the child shows, by responding to him/her in a developmentally appropriate way (rather than in an age appropriate way).

Aims

Through offering a Nurture Group environment we aim to:

- supply a setting and relationships for children in which missing or insufficiently internalised essential early learning experiences are provided
- provide an environment in which children can begin to trust adults and learn
- ensure that the EYFS and/or KS1 National Curriculum is taught at a developmentally appropriate level
- place an emphasis on communication and language development
- provide opportunities for social learning through co-operation, play and sharing food
- improve self esteem and levels of confidence
- provide support during periods of transition

Teaching and Learning

The EYFS/KS1 National Curriculum is delivered at a developmentally appropriate level. There will be an emphasis placed on social and emotional development and communication and language development.

The Nurture Staff consists of a nurture leader, a nurture assistant and a nurture co-ordinator who is a member of the Senior Leadership team. Staff in the Nurture Group have completed the 4-day training course – Understanding the Theory and Practice of Nurture Groups (Certificate of Further Professional Study). A number of other teachers (including both Assistant Head teachers and the SENDCo) and several classroom assistants have also completed the nurture training course. If cover is required in the nurture class only trained staff will be used.

The whole school has annual INSET covering nurture.

Planning

Weekly plans are drawn up by Nurture Staff under the guidance of the nurture co-ordinator with reference to the Boxall Profiles of the children.

Selection Procedures

See Flow Chart (appendix 1).

A placement in Cosmic Corner will only go ahead once permission from parents is obtained. Parents will be invited to come and discuss the possible placement of their child in the Nurture Group and to visit the Nurture Group room.

Other professional agencies may be involved in the selection procedure eg School Health, School Support Team, Speech and Language Therapy.

A weekly nurture meeting (Headteacher, nurture staff, Assistant Headteachers, PSA and SENDCo) is held to discuss the progress of children currently in Cosmic Corner, reintegration schedules and the possible placement of further children in the group.

Placement in the nurture group will be either short term (a minimum of 6 weeks) or medium term (a maximum of 6 terms).

Assessment and Recording

- All children entering the Nurture Group will have an initial Boxall Profile completed by the Class Teacher and the Teaching Assistant..
- An annual nurture audit of progress is completed by nurture staff.
- Twice a year progress will be recorded on a new Boxall Profile for each individual child.
- If the child has an IEP nurture staff and class staff will liaise and incorporate a Boxall strand.
- If the child does not have an IEP nurture staff and class staff will liaise to identify a Boxall strand target which will be recorded on the SEN monitoring sheet in class and copied to nurture staff.
- Cosmic Corner targets will be used for specific afternoon feedback.
- Advice from other professional agencies may be sought.
- Further targets or reintegration will follow with a reintegration schedule drawn up by nurture staff and shared with the child, parents and staff involved.
- If unsatisfactory progress is made over a significant period of time (ie more than 3 terms) professional advice from other agencies will be sought.
- Staff will liaise with Cosmic Corner staff regularly (**at least twice per half term**) about progress made and next steps.
- Staff will liaise with Cosmic Corner staff before parents' evenings. It is the class teacher's responsibility to take the lead in parental meetings at parents' evenings.
- The class teacher will observe in Cosmic Corner once per term.

Reintegration

We aim to reintegrate children back into their mainstream class as soon as possible.

The Boxall Profile is used alongside staff observation and parental views to assess progress towards reintegration.

Nurture staff will work closely with the school staff and parents to achieve a gradual reintegration.

Reintegration will differ from child to child and will be adapted to suit individual needs. The reintegration schedule is recorded and a copy given to parents and the class teacher.

A celebration assembly for the child will be held.

SEN

All children in Reception and KS1 are eligible to join the Nurture Group, Cosmic Corner, providing they fulfil the Selection Requirements (Appendix 1).

Equal Opportunities

All children are given equal access to the Nurture Group regardless of their ability, age, gender, physical ability, race, religion or social background.

Nurture Group Attendance and Routines

- The Nurture Group runs 4.5 mornings per week.
- The children in the Nurture Group register in their own class.
- Nurture Staff will collect children from their class base after registration.
- Children will be collected from Cosmic Corner by class staff at 12.00.
- Children in the Nurture Group will share food and drink on a daily basis.

Professional Development

We aim to encourage further members of the teaching and non-teaching staff to complete the 4-day nurture training – Understanding the Theory and Practice of Nurture Groups.

We are continuously working to extend our nurturing ethos throughout the school. Visits from other members of our staff are actively encouraged.

We strive to share our good practice with other schools whenever possible.

Parental Involvement

In the Nurture Group we place an emphasis on working together with parents in order to help the child.

Nurture Staff will be available every morning between 8.40 am and 8.55 am to talk with parents. Alternatively, an appointment could be made with the Secretary.

Resources

The Nurture Group will have access to all basic class equipment. In addition the Nurture Group will have:

- Settee
- Large table
- Place settings for 12
- Kitchen with toaster, kettle, fridge and cooker
- Interactive whiteboard

KS2 Nurture Provision

STARs targets children in Year 3 who show emotional need that indicates they will struggle with the transition from KS1 to KS2.

As an integral part of our whole school nurturing ethos this provision will run for 2 afternoons a week and will be staffed by two members of staff with the accredited nurture training. The group will focus on the development of social skills and will cater for approximately 6-8 children depending on need. The expected length of time spent as part of this group will provisionally be half a term.

Staff will be invited to nominate suitable children at the termly SEN planning meeting. It is envisaged that the holistic profile of needs identified by KS1 staff will be used to select children for this provision. The Boxall Profile may also be used.

The planning for the group will be a mix of current topic work, social skills activities and joint projects to encourage working together. Joint projects may be presented at a whole school / KS2 assembly at the end of term.

Discussed and agreed with staff 8th January 2018

Signed

Chair of Governors

Appendix 1

**Nurture Group (Reception / KS1)
Selection Procedures**

