



What is the purpose of a Nurture Group?

The Nurture Group is a small class of up to 10 pupils. The Nurture Group continues the ethos of an already nurturing environment within Belle Vue School and provides inclusion for all children promoting PSHE provision. We have called our nurture room 'The Burrow'. Children are supported within The Burrow to raise their emotional well-being, self-esteem and have a sense of belonging to the school community. We provide a structured routine with clear boundaries so the children feel safe and secure.

Nurture Group Principles:

- Children's learning is understood developmentally
- The classroom/school offers a safe base
- Nurture is important for the development of self-esteem
- Language is understood as a vital means of communication
- All behaviour is communication
- Transitions are significant in the lives of children

Reasons Children might attend a Nurture Group?

- Low self esteem
- Find it hard to listen to others or join in
- Family illness or break up
- Bereavement
- Find it hard to share and take turns
- Find it hard to settle into class
- Friendship difficulties – keeping/making friends
- Quiet, shy, withdrawn
- Have experienced early childhood trauma

A teacher might identify a child with any of the above needs and will discuss the child with the SENCo, Mrs Hannah Hodson or the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Claire Davies. With parental consent, the Boxall Profile will be completed to identify possible areas of which a child might need support. If it is felt the child would benefit from a Nurture Group environment the class teacher will speak to the parent/carer and they will be given the opportunity to accept a place for their child to attend Belle Vue's Nurture group.

What does Nurture look like?

Children follow a specific structure/routine within their nurture sessions. Children identified as requiring nurture provision will either attend a morning or afternoon session. Their allocated time will remain the same throughout the duration of their time in nurture. Activities include an 'emotional' check-in with an adult at the beginning of each session, group and individual time which includes developing speaking and listening skills

Within the session we share snack time together – a chance to talk around the meal table, listen to each other, take turns to speak and practise using manners.

Whilst we value the importance of mental health and wellbeing, Nurture provision offers stimulating creative lessons and activities which cover each area of the curriculum. Each child in nurture will have an adapted form of the curriculum for their age e.g. If year 3 children are being taught fractions in maths, the year 3 child/children in nurture will have an adapted form of fractions in nurture provision.

The Burrow is a place where we want to see children have the opportunity to grow in confidence and become engaged and be successful learners in their classrooms and the school community.

How will the Nurture group help your child?

The nurture group will help to boost confidence and self-esteem and provide children with extra skills to improve social skills and independence for example:

- To engage
- To settle
- To listen
- To concentrate
- To share and take turns
- To accept losing a game
- To build friendship with their classmates
- Gives opportunities to talk about and understand their feelings
- To work on curriculum-based activities linked to their year group
- To experience and practise the development of positive relationships

Does this mean Nurture is a provision for child with bad behaviour ?

No. These sessions are meant to help children manage situations and increase their skills to become more successful learners.

How long will my child attend the Nurture Group?

A child may attend for up to 4 terms. However, we do ensure that children do not miss special assemblies, guests in school, outings or any special events that the rest of their class are taking part in. The Nurture team plan closely with the class teachers and each child follows the curriculum being carried out in their class.

Are parents/carers involved?

Yes, we like to feel there is an open-door policy where parents/carers can come and chat with the class teacher or the Nurture staff with regard to their child.

Are staff trained?

Yes, our nurture provision staff attend a 2-day training course. Monitoring and supervision is carried out on a regular basis and we have support from a dedicated team within the authority to offer support and guidance where necessary.

How are other children in school supported if they do not meet the needs to attend nurture provision?

Mrs Davies is a recognised Trauma Informed Schools Practitioner; this is an accredited award. All staff have received training on Trauma Informed Schools practice; this is ongoing. Through the training staff are taught how a child's brain develops and the impact upon brain development when a child experiences a number of ACES – Adverse Childhood Experiences. Staff have been given training on methods/strategies for communicating with children who may become dysregulated.

In addition to TIS training, the local authority provide training for all staff on attachment and trauma as part of our nurture project. Staff adopt practice within their own classrooms to support other children who may be vulnerable or experiencing difficulties with their emotional health.