

Ireleth St Peter's C of E Primary School

Nurture Group Policy

'Prosper'

2021-22

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.' " — Jeremiah 29:11

The Nurture Group at Ireleth St Peter's has been formed for the first time as a response to supporting children's wellbeing following the effects of the Covid 19 pandemic restrictions.

Nurture groups are used frequently in schools to support children who may have social, emotional, mental health and/ or behavioural needs. At ISP, through our Christian ethos and values, we believe in educating the whole child, and that supporting every area of need in a child will have a positive effect on their wellbeing, leading to them achieving their full potential, including attainment.

Nurture Group is a tool that we use to provide this support. If these needs are not addressed, the social and academic demands of school will also be difficult.

Our Nurture Group is underpinned by six main principles (as recommended by support group Nurture UK):

- Learning is understood developmentally
- The classroom offers a safe base
- The importance of nurture for the development of wellbeing
- Language is a vital means of communication
- All behaviour is communication
- The importance of transition in the lives of children and young people.

The impact that we believe Nurture Group has is:

1. **Improved wellbeing**- improvements in social, emotional, mental health and behavioural skills and strengthening of wider social networks.
2. **Improved Achievement**- Statistical studies show a significant increase in academic progress for pupils attending a Nurture Group.
3. **Improved Behaviour**- Studies show that Nurture Group help to create a positive change in social, emotional and mental health difficulties (SEMH) both in school and at home and help form positive attachments to school.
4. **Improved Teaching**- Nurture Group helps develop bonds between teachers and children and creates a whole school nurturing ethos.

We have named our group 'Prosper' after Jeremiah 29:11 to reflect the Christian values that underpin every aspect of school life at ISP. This ethos leads us to ensure we educate the whole child, focusing on children's spiritual, moral, social, cultural and emotional wellbeing alongside attainment.

Structure

At ISP, Nurture group sessions take place on a weekly basis, every Wednesday afternoon.

The Nurture Group staff:

Coordinator: Mrs Ellie Saunders (SENDCo)

Nurture Group Leader: Miss Batten (SEN intervention lead)

Nurture Group Key Stage 1 Support (1:1): Miss Morrison

Consistency is important for Nurture Groups to succeed, we ensure that the leader of our SEND intervention runs the Nurture Group sessions to ensure that children have the structure and routine that will most benefit them. If the regular staff are not available, there will be another familiar member of school staff that runs that week's Nurture Group session, this will be either Miss Shaw or Mrs Saunders.

The groups are split into Key Stages, but occasionally work together as a bigger group when necessary, in order to take part in extracurricular activities. This provides children with the chance to socialise with a range of children of different ages.

Activities that the children participate in will vary from week to week, and could be a written task, reflection, socialisation activity, team building exercise or enrichment experience. We make use of our extensive school grounds and links with the local community, and ensure children have a range of experiences away from the school site.

All activities, as advised by Nurture UK all have the following three aims:

To give children the skills to

- do well at school
- To make friends
- To deal more confidently and calmly with the trials and tribulations of life, for life.

Criteria of need

We identify the need to attend Nurture group using a variety of techniques, including informal observations, discussions with parents and assessments. There are range of needs that when present, we feel attendance in Nurture group is beneficial.

These include but are not limited to:

- When we wish to increase a child's educational engagement
- Where we feel provision of emotional support will help children to make academic progress
- Where we wish to foster emotional wellbeing in children
- Where we wish to reduce withdrawn behaviour in children
- Where we wish to reduce incidents of aggression
- Where we feel it will help us to create a more inclusive ethos
- Where we can use it as a tool to remove barriers to learning.

Assessment

For children attending the Nurture Group at ISP, we will use a Boxall Profile assessment, which is the a tool used in schools to establish children's social, emotional functioning and wellbeing. It is recommended by the DfE and provides adults with an insight into the children's world, allowing

them to think about what might lie behind sometimes challenging behaviour and what their needs might be. Once needs have been identified, the Boxall Profile can be used to plan and review the support offered to pupils.

It is comprised of 2 sections each with 34 questions, which provide an overview of areas where children may require support linked to SEMH. This then forms the targets that staff support children to work towards in Nurture Group.

Evidence

In addition to an individual Boxall profile, staff will create a record of each session that the children attend, in this they will observe and record weekly progress towards areas of need identified on their Boxall profile. We also keep a record of their participation in Nurture Group tasks, through photos and written activities completed in sessions. Children will be given this work when leaving Nurture Group as a way of reflecting on their learning journey.

Exit Strategy

The average time children are expected to need support from Nurture Group is around 3-4 school terms, throughout their time in the group, their boxall profile assessment will be used to assess the progress that they have made. Once they have made the correct level of progress, the children will leave Nurture Group and continue full time in the classroom environment.