



*“a flying start to a  
life of learning”*

## **Gastrells Community Primary School**

### **NURTURE POLICY**

#### ***MISSION STATEMENT***

*At Gastrells Community Primary School, our mission is to promote pupil success by inspiring and developing their knowledge, interests, physical and mental wellbeing, and a love of learning in a child-centered, inclusive and empowering environment.*

Strategic Review, July 2020

Approved by: Standards Committee

Last reviewed on: September 2022

Next review due by: October 2024

**The Nurture Group Policy**

### **Nurture Group Philosophy:**

At Gastrells we support the view that “Nurture groups explicitly recognise that severely adverse early experiences affect every aspect of development and that they underlie much educational failure in mainstream schools. Such experiences leave social, emotional and intellectual deficits, which nurture have demonstrated can be made good, that educational progress, in the widest sense, can be fostered.” (M.Boxall)

### **What are Nurture Groups?**

Nurture groups are small groups of children within a mainstream primary school supported by the whole staff and parents. The groups have their own Nurture Group practitioners and work in a space which has dedicated areas providing a safe base for learning based on the principle of ‘catching children doing it right’.

The adults’ role is to gain some understanding of gaps in development. To meet the needs of the children at the stage they have reached and to offer emotional acceptance and focussed teaching.

### **The Aims of a Nurture Group**

- To increase inclusive practice for children with emotional and behavioural difficulties and to develop ways in which the school supports such children.
- To facilitate a positive school ethos
- To develop awareness about the causes of behaviour and the effective management of behaviour agencies
- To raise the achievement of children with emotional and behavioural difficulties
- To increase joint working practices between agencies
- To increase parental involvement in supporting their children
- In order to retain identity with their class, children in the Nurture Group continue to share playtimes, class visits, assemblies. P.E. and special lessons.

## **The Screening process**

- The Boxall profile is used to provide a clear picture of a child's areas of needs. The Boxall profile is a series of questions covering various aspects of a child's social and emotional development.

## **Involving Parents**

- Parental support is vital to the child's progress and, where possible they are invited to attend 'Celebration Time'.

## **A typical session**

- The session begins after registration. The children are collected by practitioners and taken to the nurture room. The group gather for Circle Time when children can discuss previous experiences as well as any problems or worries. A daily talking point is introduced and discussed. The activity is introduced as well as the plan for the afternoon. The session includes a snack, a Nurture Activity and concludes with a story.
- Sessions include a variety of topic, art and craft activities, board games and constructive activities.
- In general, a sense of routine is especially important to children attending the Nurture Group who often lead very erratic lives. Every attempt is made to prepare them for any changes to their routine in advance.

## **Nurture Group management**

- The group will be managed by the SENDCo with the support of a Teaching Assistant.
- In order to maximise its effectiveness, the group will not exceed 6 children, with a balance of needs.
- The group will be called by the name selected by the participating children and will be called the Nurture Group for administrative purposes only.
- Parental contact will be regular, ongoing and interactive. Consent will be gained from parents prior to children entering the group.

- Potential Nurture Group members will be observed and assessed through formal diagnostic testing as well as consulting with Class Teachers.
- Typically a session will be 1.25 hours
- A maximum of four terms would be available to each child, however, as soon as it was perceived that a child had made sufficient progress and was ready, he/she would be returned to the main stream classroom.

### **Equal Opportunities**

All children who are identified as likely to benefit from this experience will be given equal consideration regardless of special or specific individual needs.

### **Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

- The outcomes of Nurture Group are reviewed and evaluated after each session and this information informs future planning.