



Nurture Policy

What is Nurture?

The concept of nurture highlights the importance of social environments – who you're with, and not who you're born to – and its significant influence on social emotional skills, wellbeing and behaviour. Children and young people who have a good start in life are shown to have significant advantages over those who have experienced missing or distorted early attachments. They tend to do better at school, attend regularly, form more meaningful friendships and are significantly less likely to offend or experience physical or mental health problems.

The nurturing approach offers a range of opportunities for children and young people to engage with missing early nurturing experiences, giving them the social and emotional skills to do well at school and with peers, develop their resilience and their capacity to deal more confidently with the trials and tribulations of life, for life.

(Taken from <https://www.nurtureuk.org/nurture/what-nurture>)

Nurture approaches within St. Patrick's Primary School are based on the 6 core principles:

- Children's 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
- The importance of transition in children's lives

A Nurture group may be beneficial for:

- Children who appear to be emotionally insecure, which could present as lack of self acceptance, low self-esteem or lack of trust.
- Children who are coping with socially disadvantaged circumstances
- Children who are living with Mental Health issues in the home environment
- Children who are withdrawn and unresponsive.
- Children with poor social skills, who cannot share, who are demanding or uncooperative.
- Children who have difficulty in concentrating.
- Children who behave aggressively, impulsively or inappropriately.
- Children who demonstrate immature behaviour.
- Children who find change upsetting.
- Children who are suddenly faced with unforeseen circumstances.

Nurture Group Aims

To provide a carefully routine session, where there is a balance of learning, teaching, affection and structure within a home-like atmosphere. We aim to promote inclusive, respectful relationships across our whole school community, including learners, staff parents/carers and our partners.

We aim to create an environment within St. Patrick's Primary School that:

- ✓ Is safe and secure;
- ✓ Promotes wellbeing;
- ✓ Respects the difference between learners;
- ✓ Is conducive to positive relationships;
- ✓ Fosters achievement and celebrates success;
- ✓ Is emotionally positive so feelings are recognised, understood and dealt with;
- ✓ Is empowering, supporting decision making and making choices; and
- ✓ Is free from negative stressors such as hunger and thirst.
- ✓

Every child matters and we aim to respond to each child's needs, taking into consideration their:

- Background
- Life experiences
- Strengths
- Communication needs
- Emotional and social needs
- Developmental needs
- Physical needs
- Mental Wellbeing Assessment

Assessment

If any member of staff is concerned for the wellbeing of a child this should be discussed with the management team. If appropriate, children will be assessed using the Boxall Profile Assessment after an initial consultation meeting with parents/carers. Findings will be discussed with staff team and linked to a child's targets, both within nurture and their classroom. This will be reviewed termly as part of the Staged Intervention process. (See Additional Support Policy for more information)