



NURTURE GROUP POLICY

Issue No 33

Date 20.11.12

Purpose

The school has been able to appoint a fully accredited specifically trained Nurture Group member of staff, who has completed a course in the Theory and Practice of Nurture Group work; and is supported by another member of staff. Both are supervised by a qualified member of the teaching staff.

Identified groups of children will benefit from being in a smaller group and in a less formal environment than the normal classroom can provide.

Aims

- To provide a flexible and preventative resource which is responsive to the particular needs of the children attending the school.
- To provide ongoing assessment and support for children showing signs of emotional stress and behavioural difficulties with the aim of enabling the child to access the curriculum and participate fully in school life.
- To provide a secure and reliable environment where children can learn by re-experiencing pre-school nurture from caring adults who actively work towards their successful integration into their mainstream class.
- To help children to learn to behave appropriately, use their curiosity constructively, improve their self-esteem and develop confidence through close and trusting relationships with adults.
- To work in partnership with class teachers and parents to enable consistency of approach, both at home and at school.

Teaching and Learning

- Nurture Groups are a unique, preventative resource based on well documented psychological theory and research.
- The Nurture Group is based in a separate room with a home-like area and an area set aside for formal learning.
- Children will attend for a maximum period of up to four terms.
- There will be a maximum of 12 children in the Nurture Group at any one time.
- The children will be on the register of their mainstream class and they will join their class for appropriate activities.
- The Nurture Group will operate for 4 mornings a week- Monday to Thursday.
- The children will spend lunchtime and playtime with other children in the school.
- Some children may need extra support at these times.
- The Nurture Group will consist of two members of staff who will work as a team. Neither adult will be available to cover for absent staff within the school.

Non-contact time will be required for the Nurture Group team to

- See parents
- Plan activities for the following week in conjunction with teachers planning
- Attend case conferences
- Keep records
- Carry out observations
- Meet with other professionals
- Liaise with other school staff
- Attend INSET
- Non-contact time will be on a Friday morning.

The Nurture Group will continue to build on existing multi-agency outreach work. Training, advice and support for colleagues in the local area will be offered. Nurture Group staff will develop links with other professionals as appropriate and work with them to enable the child and the family to be offered an effective package of support.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

A verbal termly update will be fed back to the FGB and a written report will be included in the Headteacher's reports to Governors.

Management Support

The Steering Committee will meet termly to enable a cohesive and agreed vision to be formulated. This will be achieved by working through a variety of activities including a Values Audit, a Stakeholder Analysis and developing a mission statement.

Assessments and planning are approved by the qualified teaching staff member each term.

Finances will also be discussed and feedback to the sub-committee Steering group, to ensure value for money.

Members of the steering Committee will consist of:

- The Headteacher
- Nurture Group staff
- Link Governor
- Ed Psych

Equal Opportunities

Scott Lower School is committed to working towards equality of opportunity for all children regardless of age, ability, gender, race and social circumstances. All pupils are of equal value and have the same right to take part in the varied activities and opportunities wherever possible. All opportunities for learning should be offered in a way which allows all children access and the ability to progress at their stage of understanding.

Disability Discrimination Act

Scott Lower School is committed to having due regard to the following

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 has been amended by the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 so that it now places a duty on all public authorities, including schools, when carrying out their functions, to have due regard to the need to:

- Promote equality of opportunity between disabled persons and other persons
- Eliminate discrimination that is unlawful under the Act
- Eliminate harassment of disabled persons that is related to their disabilities
- Promote positive attitudes towards disabled persons
- Encourage participation by disabled persons in public life
- Take steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, even where that involves treating disabled persons more favourably than other persons.