



Anfield Road Primary School

Nurture Policy

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Nurture Group Policy

"The purpose of education for all children is the same; the goals are the same. But help that individual children need in progressing towards them will be different. Whereas for some, the road they travel towards the goal is smooth and easy; for others it is fraught with obstacles." (Warnock Report, 1.4)

Purpose/Aims of the Nurture Group – Liver Birds

- To provide a flexible and holistic approach to education and care in response to the particular needs of the children attending our school.
- To provide a safe and reliable environment where children can learn by re-experiencing early years nurture from adults who actively work towards their successful integration into their mainstream class.
- To provide on-going assessment and support for children exhibiting behaviours linked to emotional stress and attachment issues.
- To work in partnership with parents, class teachers and outside agencies to enable consistency of approach, both at home and in school.

Description of Liver Birds:

Liver Birds at Anfield Road Primary School is based around the Nurture Groups that were developed in the 1970's to support the emotional development of identified children. A model was based on attachment theory, a concept developed by John Bowlby concerning the importance and quality of the relationship between a child and its primary care giver.

Liver Birds is part of a whole school ethos and commitment to nurturing children. Based in Liver Birds room, the sessions run for 4 days a week – mornings for Key Stage 1 and afternoons for Key Stage 2. The sessions aim to provide domestic style opportunities and experimental play as well as more formal learning sessions.

Children are selected for Liver Birds group through an assessment process involving Boxall profiles, parent and teacher meetings. Children do not remain in Liver Birds group indefinitely. The intervention usually lasts for between 1 and 4 terms. Each case is reviewed and tracked termly with parents/carers and class teachers. Each term, a steering group meets, comprised of all the Liver Birds staff, an Educational Psychologist, the Head or Deputy Head Teacher and Behaviour Manager, with targets being set following regular Boxall Profile assessments. There are a maximum of 8 children in each group due to floor space and to ensure no more than a 1:4 ratio of adult to child is maintained.

Liver Birds is staffed by 2 experienced teachers, a learning mentor and teaching assistant. All staff attended the 3 day Nurture Group training.

In the absence of any of the key staff it is not possible to run a session and children remain in their mainstream class. This is avoided but staff and children are given advance warning of this where ever possible.

Referral Procedure:

All referrals to Liver Birds must be made in consultation with parent/carers and then discussed at the Steering Group. Children from Reception do not join the Nurture Group until Y1.

A variety of assessment procedures are used to inform referrals. All children must have a Boxall Profile, which is completed by the class teacher and analysed alongside other information about the child's needs. The profile is used objectively to assess children's needs and their suitability for a place in Liver Birds.

Parents/carers are kept fully informed. Nurture staff meet with all parents/carers formally before children start Liver Birds. Each term staff and pupils hold an informal coffee morning or afternoon and invite parents/carers.

Children attending Liver Birds will be placed on schools SEND register at SEN school support.

Reintegration back into class full-time is discussed with all appropriate parties and following Boxall tracking and academic assessments. When children leave Liver Birds they are given a VIP pass so contact is reduced and not immediately removed.

Parental Links

As in all aspects of Anfield Road Primary School life, parental involvement will be welcomed and encouraged. Liver Birds Groups aim to work in partnership with parents/carers to give children maximum benefit of their experience within the group.

The Headteacher and Governing Body are responsible for dealing with any complaints and schools complaints policy should be sought.

Monitoring and Review of provision:

The Nurture group will be monitored in line with schools monitoring and assessment policy.

The Nurture Steering Group will meet to ensure the Nurture Group principle is maintained. It will also monitor the success of the provision and provide support and guidance.