- Relationships in the group are warm and affirming, with an emphasis on talking and listening.
- Rules are discussed and agreed with the children.
- Feelings and behaviour are discussed and children are helped to see themselves as valued members of the group.

For further information please contact the Nurture team using the following contact details.

Contact details
Nurture Group Programme
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If you require this document in an alternative format please contact Bucks Educational Psychology Service at:
eps@buckscc.gov.uk
What is a Nurture Group?

- Inclusive early intervention to prevent social, emotional and behavioural difficulties within the mainstream school.
- Helps vulnerable children to cope with the demands of school and prepare them for more formal learning.
- It supports children not because of limitations in ability, but because they may have missed out on early experiences that promote good development.

Nurture Groups are for groups of 6 to 10 children who remain members of the mainstream class, but spend between 2 to 4 terms in the nurture group. Nurture Groups work best if there is a balance of children: girls and boys and not more than two thirds of children showing aggressive behaviour. Where possible the Nurture Group model is provided for Key Stage 1 but is used for older children and is being successfully used in secondary schools.

Who runs the Nurture Group?

The group is delivered by two trained, experienced and skilled practitioners, who could be LSAs or teachers. The key role of the adults is to ‘model’ positive behaviour towards one another and offer trusting relationships through consistency, interest and commitment. The team should always include a teacher to support planning for delivery of the curriculum.

Who would benefit?

Some children are not able to readily adjust to the demands of school as they have not had the opportunity to develop social skills, self esteem or the confidence needed. These children may have significant needs, their problems vary from withdrawal to behaviour that is disruptive to others.

How often does the Nurture Group take place?

The classic nurture group takes place for 9 sessions of the week. In Buckinghamshire we use a part-time variant of the model, which runs for a minimum of 2 sessions per week. It still adheres to the 6 nurture principles.

The six principles of nurture groups

- 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 transitions in the lives of children and young people.

What happens at the Nurture Group?

- Provides a safe predictable environment with elements of the home setting, structured so that early learning opportunities can be recreated.
- The time is planned to offer controlled experiences with an element of protection from, the at times, overwhelming stimulation and complexity of the mainstream class. The room is equipped with a comfortable homelike area and a learning space. The key features are a kitchen/dining area, a creative and role play area, a learning and work area and a quiet/reading area.