

St Mary's C of E (Aided) Primary School



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Headteacher
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BEd(Hons) NPQH

Nurture Provision Policy / Protocol

Subject co-ordinator / other policy sponsor:

Mrs Colette Ashley

Headteacher's signature: Yvonne Stallwood-Barnes

Governors' subcommittee:

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Date of adoption by the Governing Body:

3 February 2021

Signed for the Governors: Steve Nelson (Chair)

Date: 03 February 2021

Date of next review: February 2023

Nurture Provision Policy / Protocol

At St Mary's C of E (Aided) Primary School, we recognise that some children will have times in their lives when they need extra nurture support in school to help them process their emotions and enable their continued engagement in school.

We have therefore implemented a nurture provision within the school with the help and support of St Mary's C of E Church.

The Nurture Room has been funded by the church and the resources in it are for the use of the children who have been referred for support.

This protocol will outline what parents can expect from staff and children whilst working within this provision.

This document should be read in conjunction with other school policies such as; Safeguarding, acceptable users policy and Staff Conduct which can be found on the school website:

<https://www.st-marys-chipping.oxon.sch.uk/>

What is nurture support?

Nurture support is based around the fundamentals of attachment theory and the six principles of nurture:

1. Children's learning is understood developmentally.
2. The Nurture Room offers a safe base and key attachment figures.
3. Nurture is important for the development or wellbeing.
4. Language is a vital form of communication.
5. All behaviour is communication.
6. The importance of transition in children's lives.

The Nurture Room provides a safe space for pupils to explore and recognise their feelings and be supported through a range of social, emotional, and behavioural issues via therapeutic interventions and tools. The children are supported based on their developmental age rather than chronological age and provided with opportunity to gain any early learning skills that they may have missed out on.

Sessions run on a 1:1 or group basis and are designed to give the children an opportunity to build trusting relationships and learn skills and resilience that allow them to flourish in school, make friends and deal with life more confidently and calmly.

As a dedicated space in school, the Nurture Room is designed so that children are given clear boundaries and expectations so that they feel secure enough to open-up about their worries and struggles. They are given the freedom to express themselves through creative projects and learn through play, exploration and positive risk-taking. Intended as a bridge between school and home, the room is bright and cosy, with sofas and teddies, as well as plenty of books, pictures and ornaments to inspire the imagination. Sharing food and eating together is also a fundamental aspect of nurture support.

Sessions last between 30 mins (1:1) and 75 minutes (group). Nurture support can be provided on a more flexible basis if there is a child in particular need and their teacher/SENCO/Head refers them for a one-off intervention.

Period of intervention: The period of intervention will be agreed on a case-by-case basis. The initial intervention will be for 12 weeks. The child's needs will then be reviewed and if it is felt that the child would benefit from another period of intervention this will then be agreed in a meeting between Nurture Lead/Parent and SENCo.

Referrals

There are a number of ways that a child can be referred for Nurture provision; Children will either be referred through the class teacher in discussion with the SENCo and parent or there will be a direct referral from the parent through the school office. Or through Social Meetings.

Form to be kept in the front office area - to be completed and put in envelope marked FAO: Nurture Lead.

Record Keeping

The Nurture Lead will record attendance, theme of session and activity after each session with a child/group on the school ONE drive. Any Safeguarding Concerns will be recorded on the School Safeguarding system CPOMS and DSL team notified.

A brief summary of the whole term's work with the individual child will then be sent to parents and teachers every 12 weeks. Each child's report will be stored individually against their records on the school information management system (done by school staff to INTEGRISS - Catherine puts on ONE drive).

Boxall Profile

<https://new.boxallprofile.org/>

What is it?

The Boxall Profile is a tool for tracking a child's social, emotional and needs alongside their academic needs to inform the best support is put in place for them. The profile is reviewed regularly and measures progress as well as areas of need.

The aim is that each child who attends the Nurture Room will have a Boxall Profile which will be re-assessed each six months. The profile will be carried out by the child's form teacher and discussed with Nurture Lead/ SENCO.

Parents will be informed that their child has been profiled and that the BP is available on request. If they do wish to see the profile this will be done in a meeting with the SENCO or Nurture Lead so that the context and results can be understood.

Communication with Parents

As the Nurture Team take a whole family approach it is important that parents are offered a means of communicating with the team especially the Nurture Lead. If a parent wishes to discuss their child with the Nurture Lead or a member of the team, they will email her on:

catherine.spring@st-marys-chipping.oxon.sch.uk

If the Nurture Lead or a member of the team feels it is important to speak to a parent about their child, they will ask the office for details and contact them directly.

Parent Drop in

Parent Drop-in is run by Emma Kennedy, **8.30 – 10am on a Monday during termtime**. Emma is able to support parents through advice and signposting for housing, finance, benefits and local services etc. She is able to offer support with parenting and carry out an Early Help Assessment, plus provide practical support where needed through local charity Thrive (uniform etc). Emma is a DA Champion.

Transition to Year 7

Working with staff at CNS we offer support to Year 6 children in order to support them through the transition to secondary school. We do this via nurture sessions to explore any concerns or anxieties and support through protective behaviours awareness. In the summer term we arrange for pastoral support staff from CNS to visit nurture lunch

sessions so that they are familiar to pupils when they arrive in Year 7 and can answer any questions or concerns. Remix, the youth club run by St Mary's Church, comes into school in the summer term to run a trial session and start to build a relationship ready for when the pupils are in Year 7.

The Nurture Team

Acting as key attachment figures the Nurture Team base all their work on the concept of PACE (playful acceptance curiosity and empathy) and attachment theory. In this way they can provide essential early learning experiences that children may have missed out on. By employing a reflective and flexible practice The Nurture Team ensures that all children are seen as individuals and receive the best support possible for their needs at that time. The Team supports the children based on their developmental age rather than chronological age. The Nurture Team takes a whole family approach in line with Oxfordshire County Council's way of working and therefore where appropriate parents may be involved in nurture sessions.

Catherine Spring, Nurture Lead (Families Outreach Worker at St Mary's Church)

Catherine is trained in art-as-therapy, DA/ACEs trauma-informed interventions, Protective Behaviours, Mental Health First Aid, plus Lego therapy, and life-story / storybook practice. Catherine has advanced Safeguarding training. Catherine works with outside agencies and feeds into TAF/CIN/CP meetings, as necessary. She is a trained Domestic Abuse Champion, ACEs adverse childhood experiences toolkit and domestic abuse toolkit practitioner.

The Nurture Lead's line manager in school is the SENCo: Colette Ashley.

The Nurture Lead and Line Manager within the church is: Emma Kennedy, Community & Outreach Lead

Sarah Saxby, Family Support Worker

Sarah worked for thirty years as Family Support for the ACE Children's Centre and has strong relationships with the community. She is trained in the Nurturing Programme, Families Going Forward, Counselling and Protective Behaviours and Forest School practice. She is a Domestic Abuse Champion. Her area of expertise is coming alongside the most marginalised and disengaged adults and children, understanding the dynamics of the family, working with them to tackle behaviour and other challenges, and encouraging them to build relationships with schools and outside agencies.

Yvonne Champion, Full Circle facilitator & Family Support

Yvonne is an experienced volunteer and pastoral co-ordinator with a rich experience of working in schools most recently eight years running a Coram Beanstalk reading support project. Yvonne set-up and facilitated Full Circle which started in March 2019 and continues to support the volunteers. She also supports families in the community through our domestic abuse support work.

Emma Kennedy, Parent Drop-In (Outreach Manager, St Mary's Church)

Emma is very experienced in supporting families with a wide range of issues including debt, housing, benefits, the social care system and parenting. She is a trained Domestic Abuse Champion and Circle of Security practitioner.

Full Circle

Full Circle is an intergenerational project which brings together older members of the community with children to nurture friendship and understanding across the generations. Each term, six children are invited to join Full Circle and come weekly to meet four older members of the community (in their 70s, 80s & 90s) for lunch alongside the FC facilitator and Nurture Lead. After eating lunch together, the group do an activity (craft, game, show & tell). Children and volunteers are encouraged to engage and work together.

Feedback has shown that the value is great for both children and volunteers. Full Circle offers a chance for children to build confidence and resilience, and provides the volunteers with connection with younger people, a positive weekly activity and the chance to feel part of the community.

Safeguarding

Due to the nature of the work that is completed within the nurture session and the discussion of sensitive issues, there may be times that a child reports a case of abuse against themselves or another child. Should this occur, the nurture leader will follow the school Safeguarding Policy

<https://www.st-marys-chipping.oxon.sch.uk/safeguarding-at-st-marys/>

and report the incident to the Designated Safeguarding team. A member of the Safeguarding Team will then decide if further action should be taken, which may involve reporting the issue to Social Care and/or the police and the parents/carers.

Whole Team - Catherine is trained to Advanced safeguarding as is Yvonne Champion and Sarah Saxby.

Meetings outside of school

Due to the crossover of the Nurture Team's work with the community and the school, there may be an occasion where there is a need for them to meet with some children outside of school hours in the community.

When this happens, the following guidelines will occur, read in conjunction with St Mary's C of E Church Outreach protocol:

- Any meetings with children from St Mary's school will happen in the presence of parent/carer.
- If the meeting is instigated because of an issue within the school a record of the time, date, place and duration of the meeting will be recorded on the school safeguarding system.
- A summary of the meeting will be kept on the child's school records. Feedback will be given to parents on request.
- Senior Leaders in school and Emma Kennedy, Outreach Manager, will be aware of the meetings taking place.
- Any safeguarding concerns will be acted on immediately - this may involve the Nurture Team contacting Social Care, MASH, Police and the parents before the next school day.
- No contact will be made with a child through social media or their mobile device. (to include but not limited to laptop, phone, tablet). Communication will be via parents/ carers only.

Appendices

- referral form to be kept in the office.
- letter from school identifying the child.

Appendix 1

St Mary's Nurture Room
Referral Form

Name: _____ DOB: _____

Gender: _____

Year Group: _____

SEN Support/EHCP: _____

Further information:

Referral reason and objective:

Other info (if applicable):

Medical details (if applicable):

Referred by:

Relation to the child:

Contact details: _____

Mobile: _____

Signature: _____ Print name: _____ Date: _____

Appendix 2

Dear Parent / Carer

Your child has been identified as someone who needs further emotional support. We would like to recommend that they have support from Catherine Spring, Family Support Worker.

Catherine, who is employed through St Mary's CE Church and the school, uses creative activities as a therapeutic tool to support children through difficult periods in their lives, process challenging emotions and build resilience.

The session will take place in the school's nurture room, either in a one to one session or a small group, taken from the same class bubble depending on the need of your child.

After a period of 12 weeks, the support will be reviewed with the school and either continue or be replaced by whole class support.

A short report will be produced by Catherine at the end of 12 weeks, to inform you of activities undertaken and how your child has responded. If you wish to contact Catherine to discuss the needs of your child you can do so via the school office; office.3848@st-mays-chipping.oxon.sch.uk or 01608 642673 or directly email Catherine at catherine.spring@st-marys-chipping.oxon.sch.uk. Catherine will get back to you.

In line with the school safeguarding policy, should any concerns be raised within the session, Catherine (who has advanced safeguarding training) will report these to a member of the school's Designated Safeguarding Team who will investigate further as needed.

If you agree to this support, then there is no need to take action. If you do not wish your child to participate in this intervention, then please complete the slip below and return it to the school office.

Yours faithfully

Colette Ashley
Inclusion Manager

I do not wish my child _____ to participate in the nurture room sessions.

Signed: _____