

We are very proud of our Nurture provision which has been running since September 2018. Children remain in the Nurture intervention usually for 4 terms (although this is very flexible based around each child's need).

What is Nurture?

Nurture is a provision for children who may have difficulties trusting adults and forming attachments. The first few years of a child's life shapes their future and some children may have missed out on experiences early on which contribute to their feelings of safety and well-being. ***This is no-one's fault*** and may be due to factors such as illness, post-natal depression, domestic abuse, bereavement, family trauma and so on. The children are therefore taken back to an earlier developmental stage in order to revisit moments that may have been lost.

What does Nurture at St Margaret's look like?

Our Nurture room is called The Treehouse. It is set up to include a lounge area, kitchen area with a dining table, learning space, home corner (role play-dressing up, kitchen), craft area and other play stations (small world, board games, and so on). There is also an outdoor garden area and an area named the Snug. This is an area where the children go when they feel that they need thinking time, calm time, and so on.

We currently have five children and two adults, Mrs Essam and Mrs Lewis. Mrs Wills (lead Pastoral and THRIVE TA) works closely alongside nurture staff. In the event of staff absences Mrs Wills steps into the Treehouse. The Treehouse could accommodate up to 8 children, although it is crucial that the mix of children is right. Children attend mornings only and return to class for the afternoon.

The nurture team have created an environment where the children feel loved, understood and free to express themselves. In freely expressing themselves, angry outbursts are seen as well as sheer elation and proud smiles. The children do not feel judged by their peers or the adults working in the Treehouse, they feel safe and cared for, so are able to express their emotions freely.

How is progress measured?

Progress is measured through the Boxall profile which is completed by Mrs Essam and the pupil's class teacher. It is based on the child's behaviour in class. The Boxall profile assesses children's social, emotional and behavioural development and the skills they need to possess in order to access learning. Other measures of progress include THRIVE scores and attendance data as well as academic data such as reading ages.

What has been achieved?

We have found the provision supports better pupil engagement with school, higher levels of attendance, improved reading ages and improved Boxall profile scores. Furthermore, parents have reported improvements in the children's behaviour at home and enjoy the close partnership between Nurture staff and themselves. Going forward, we want to continue to make improvements to the outdoor area of the provision and after two years of practice we can apply for the Marjorie Boxall Quality Mark Award which would recognise our work in this area and would be a great asset to the school.