



Our curriculum statement linked to the 6 Principles of Nurture



Loved Inspired Shining

What is Nurture at St Alphege Infant School and Sunbeams Nursery?

We firmly believe that effective teaching and learning cannot take place without effective relationships and positive behaviour. Children need a connection and a calm and purposeful atmosphere in order to learn and experience success. We believe we should encourage positive attitudes to each other both in the classroom and in the school environment so that all children feel safe and secure.

As a school, we aim to focus on emotional needs and development in a whole school environment. We can help to develop the nurture of children by focusing on emotional growth that can help them to form positive relationships and firm boundaries. Our mission is to create a culture of belonging, where the children are at the heart of all that we do, they are our motivation and we are their champions. We commit to nurturing and equipping our children with self-belief, knowledge and the skills they need to flourish.

Our children and families are at the centre of everything we do. Mental health, social and emotional development and wellbeing is at the core of our school and by working together with our families and our community partners we will continue to equip our children with the life-skills to achieve.

Research clearly demonstrates that a nurturing approach supports the development of positive relationships which are central to both learning and wellbeing. Nurture focuses on the attention and care provided to a child that supports their developing needs and emotional resilience. In schools, the practice of nurture aims to provide this essential experience through developing positive relationships, clear boundaries and regular communication.

A key aspect of a nurturing approach is an understanding of attachment theory and how early experiences can have a significant impact on development. It recognises that all school staff have a role to play in establishing the positive relationships that are required to promote healthy social and emotional development and that these relationships should be reliable, predictable and consistent where possible. A nurturing approach has a key focus on the school environment and emphasises the balance between care and challenge which incorporates attunement, warmth and connection alongside structure, high expectations and a focus on achievement and attainment. It is based on the understanding of 6 Nurturing Principles.



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At the heart of nurture is a focus on wellbeing and relationships and a drive to support the growth and development of children and young people.

1	Children's learning is understood developmentally	We are all individuals. That means not everyone learns at the same rate or time. We respond to pupils in terms of their developmental stage with a non-judgmental and accepting attitude. We take a holistic view of children and young peoples' learning and all aspects of their development.
2	The classroom offers a safe base	School should be a calm, safe environment for everyone. We provide a welcoming, safe environment with an ethos which promotes warmth and emotional safety as well as physical safety.
3	Nurture is essential for the development of wellbeing	Looking after ourselves and other people makes us feel good in mind and body. We invest in strong and trusting relationships, based upon the schools values of love, trust and kindness. We use these nurturing relationships to support the development of wellbeing for all stakeholders.
4	Language is a vital means of communication	Language is valued as a way of putting feelings into words. All staff understand that the language we use when communicating with our children and young people, family and colleagues can shape their thinking, feeling and actions.
5	All behaviour is communication	We know that many of our children have not yet developed the language to tell us how they are feeling and often this is expressed through their behaviours. All staff are trained to look beyond the behaviour to see what the child is trying to tell us and to help them to find strategies to label and manage these emotions differently.
6	Transitions are important	Change happens all the time. It can be exciting but it can also be scary. We recognise the importance of how day to day transitions are managed, as well as careful preparation for more significant challenges and events. Transitions can be difficult for many people because it involves change, and even small transitions can cause anxiety.



ST ALPHEGE CE INFANT SCHOOL

At St Alphege and Sunbeams, pastoral care underpins personal development and makes our children feel that they belong, that they have good self-esteem and that they are able to flourish because they feel valued and cared for.

There has never been a more important time in education for nurture. Children, parents, staff and our communities face an ever changing and at times unpredictable world.

We believe having a whole school nurturing approach, where social, emotional and mental health is supported to form the foundations on which an academic education can be built, is fundamental for our children's futures.

Partnership with parents, carers and families are by far the most important influences in a child's life. Parental support plays a vital role at all stages of education. Parents who take on a supportive role in their children's learning make a difference in improving achievement and behaviour. Positive relationships between school and home allow the child to feel safe, secure and confident