

28th August 2024

Dear Parents,

Re: Nurture Schools Programme

We are excited to be part of a group of schools in Rutland taking part in the National Nurturing Schools Programme accreditation. Nurture is an evidence-based relational approach rooted in attachment theory. Nurture approaches support school staff to implement positive and inclusive school cultures and helps children and their families to form good relationships with school.

At Leighfield we are committed to prioritising and promoting positive mental health and wellbeing in our pupils. Following our success in achieving the School's Wellbeing Award last year, we feel that the Nurturing Schools Programme is an ideal next step to ensure that we continue to develop and embed a nurturing culture which supports children's wellbeing throughout our school. We believe the programme will enhance the teaching and learning at Leighfield and promote healthy outcomes for children.

About the award:

The National Nurturing Schools Programme is an 18-month journey undertaken with the aim of supporting pupils and stakeholders. The programme focuses on emotional needs and development, as well as academic learning in a whole school environment and enables schools to gain recognition for achieving a higher level of nurturing provision. Based on the six principles of nurture that have successfully underpinned nurture groups for over 40 years, this programme enables schools to develop and embed a nurturing culture. The programme has been developed by NurtureUK, the world's leading authority for nurture in education and awarding body of the Certificate in Theory and Practice of Nurture Groups, the nationally recognised qualification for running a nurture group in schools.

In line with the vision of Nurture UK, everything we do at Leighfield will be guided by the six principles of Nurture. Teachers in school will be trained to focus on the emotional needs of pupils and their development, as well as their academic learning, and to embed the six principles of nurture throughout the policies and practices of our school.

The 6 Principles of Nurture:

1. Children's learning is understood developmentally
2. The classroom offers a safe base
3. The importance of nurture for the development of wellbeing
4. Language is a vital means of communication
5. All behaviour is communication
6. The importance of transition in children's lives

The impact of the Nurturing Schools Programme for key stakeholders:

Children:

Our children will benefit from an approach that supports children and young people with their specific needs, the school's focus being that learning is understood developmentally.



Parents:

Parents will benefit by being involved and welcomed in the school, seeing the improvement in their children's learning, behaviour, confidence and attendance, with better outcomes for their children both in and out of the school and classroom.

Teachers:

Teachers will benefit from having an opportunity to focus on their pupils' individuality whilst ensuring the best social, emotional and academic outcome. Teachers will also enable a culture where every stakeholder's voice counts.

School:

Leighfield will benefit from showing our commitment to developing an ethos and culture that is inclusive and supports everyone in and associated with the school.

Communities:

Communities will benefit from having a school that wants to be at the heart of the community and demonstrates its essential role in children and young people's lives.

The Nurture Programme at Leighfield is being led by myself and Mrs Laird (Teaching Assistant and ELSA), however all staff will receive training to support the ethos of nurture across our school. We will continue to keep you up to date with our developments but in the meantime, if you do have any further questions, please feel free to contact us via the school office: office@dsatleighfield.org. Further information which you may also find useful can be found [here](#).

Kind regards,

Mrs Stephanie Wallace

Deputy Headteacher



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Head Teacher: Mrs S. Eaton, Deputy Head Teacher: Mrs. S. Wallace, Chair of Governors: Miss. C. Cuniffe

This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.