

The Orchard

The Orchard is a place where we want to see children have the opportunity to grow in confidence and become engaged and be successful learners in their classrooms and the school community.

For further information or to chat to a member of staff please either visit the website www.ashleighprimary.com or contact the school office
01953 602410 / office@ashleigh.norfolk.sch.uk



What is the purpose of a Nurture Group?

The Nurture Group is a small class of 10-12 pupils. The children are carefully brought together to ensure a balanced and functional group. The Nurture Group continues the ethos of an already nurturing environment within Ashleigh School and provides inclusion for all children promoting PSHE provision. Therefore the children are supported within The Orchard to raise their emotional well-being, self-esteem and have a sense of belonging to the school community. We provide a structured routine with clear boundaries so the children feel safe and secure. The Nurture Group is a place of learning.

We follow the six principles of the Nurture Network

The Nurture Group Principles:

1. Children's learning is understood developmentally
2. The classroom/school offers a safe base
3. Nurture is important for the development of self-esteem
4. Language is understood as a vital means of communication
5. All behaviour is communication
6. Transitions are significant in the lives of children

Reasons Children might attend a Nurture Group?

- Low self esteem
- Find it hard to listen to others or join in
- Family illness or break up
- Bereavement
- Find it hard to share and take turns
- Find it hard to settle into class
- Friendship difficulties - keeping/making friends
- Find it hard to accept losing a game
- Quiet, shy, withdrawn

A teacher might identify a child with any of the above needs. A discussion would then take place with the School Inclusion Manager and Nurture staff. A Boxall Profile will be completed to identify possible areas of which a child might need support. If it is felt the child would benefit from a Nurture Group environment the class teacher will speak to the parent/carer and they will be given the opportunity to accept a place for their child to attend The Orchard.

How will the Nurture Group help your child?

Children follow a structure and routine that is clear to both staff and children which includes group listening and speaking, work tasks usually from their teacher, individual and shared playing and social skills. The group runs on consistency, positive reinforcement and praise.

The Nurture Group will help to boost confidence and self-esteem and provide children with extra skills to improve social skills and independence for example:

- To engage in
- To settle
- To listen
- To concentrate
- To share and take turns
- To accept losing a game
- To build friendship with their classmates
- Gives opportunities to talk about and understand their feelings
- To work on curriculum based activities from their classrooms
- To experience and practice the development of positive relationships

Does this mean my child is naughty?

No. These sessions are meant to help them manage situations and increase their skills to become more successful learners.

How long will my child attend the Nurture Group?

Currently The Orchard runs three afternoons a week. A child may attend for 1-4 terms. However we ensure that children do not miss special assemblies, guests in school, outings or any special events that the rest of their class are taking part in. The Nurture team plan closely with the class teachers and each child usually follows the curriculum being carried out in their class.

Are parents/carers involved?

Yes we pride ourselves on having an open door policy where parents/carers can come and chat with the class teacher or the Nurture staff with regard to their child. Occasionally special events will be run for parents to come and see what their child does eg; share in toast time or story time.