

This booklet has been designed to provide you with information that will help you understand more about the Nurture group at Southbury Primary School. We hope it will answer any questions you may have.

What is a Nurture Group?

Many schools across Enfield have Nurture Groups within the school setting. They are intended to support vulnerable children who are experiencing social and emotional difficulties within their busy mainstream classes of 30 children. At Southbury we admit children from Year 1 and Year 2 and have no more than 10 children at any one time in the classroom. The Nurture Group operates every day except on a Wednesday afternoon which is when the children spend time in their mainstream class.



The Sunshine room is set up in such a way that reflects elements of a home setting as well as a classroom. There are designated learning areas such as a writing area, reading corner and tables and chairs for individual/group work. There are also a comfortable seating area, kitchen/dining area and home play area to reflect a home environment. The work and play space has a wide range of resources and toys suitable for children from Nursery age up to 7/8 years of age to support them in their learning.

Who's Who in the Sunshine Room?

The Sunshine Class is staffed by an experienced teacher; Mrs Sheibani.



Mrs Sheibani

Miss Menda is the full-time teaching assistant in the Sunshine class.



Miss Menda

With consistent and constant adults the children can experience a stable environment where the adults and children work closely together and where positive relationships can be built. The children are encouraged to feel secure and confident, developing a positive self esteem, while learning about themselves and their world.



Why should your child attend Sunshine Class?

As previously mentioned, the intention of Nurture Groups is to support children who are experiencing social and emotional difficulties within their mainstream class. Some children have behavioural difficulties whilst others may be quiet or withdrawn.

The child's behaviour is subsequently preventing them from learning and gaining access to the school's curriculum and participating in school life successfully and positively. All the children have considerable difficulties making and sustaining relationships with the adults and the children they are working with.



The reasons for these difficulties are many and varied and, most importantly, individual to each child. Sometimes the child may have learning difficulties. In some cases it is simply that the child finds the large group in the class overwhelming, which makes it difficult for them to learn. Whatever the reason some time spent in the Sunshine Class will be of tremendous benefit to the child and their family.

What happens each day in Sunshine Class?

- The children will begin and end their school day as part of their mainstream classes. Parents will drop them off and pick them up in the usual place.
- They will be registered both morning and afternoon with their class. They will also join their class for assemblies, playtimes, ICT, music and P.E sessions.
- The children who come into the Sunshine class in the morning will be collected by the Nurture group staff at 9.10am and returned just before lunchtime at 11.50am.
- When the children first arrive we sit around the carpet and have 'circle time'. During this time the children share any news, participate in circle games and look at the timetable. They are encouraged to take turns in conversation and listen to each other.
- At 9.15am we have 'Breakfast'. This is an invaluable part of the Nurture Group day because it provides the children with a social and enjoyable experience. We all sit together at the dining table talking and listening to each other, taking turns and co-operating whilst sharing food.



- Throughout the morning the children will participate in a variety of Maths and Literacy based activities. Some of these will be adult directed and some will be practical activities where the children can learn through exploration and play.
- The children who come into the Sunshine Class in the afternoons will be picked up by the Nurture Group staff at 1.30pm and returned just before the end of school at 3.00pm.
- The afternoon begins with a 'circle time' activity during which the children can talk about their playtime or share news. This is followed by a short carpet session involving an activity related to the work they will be doing that afternoon.
- The afternoons are usually devoted to developing their knowledge and understanding of the world and creativity, incorporating elements of science, humanities, R.E, art and music. These activities will also be a variety of adult directed tasks and practical explorative activities which involve sharing, collaboration and turn taking.



All of the learning experiences will be at a pace and in a manner that suits the children's individual needs. The Nurture Group staff work closely with the children's mainstream class teachers to monitor and assess each child's progress to ensure the planning and delivering of the curriculum is appropriate.



How can you support your child?

- Please talk to your child about what they have done in Sunshine Class each day to show that you support the many things they do in their busy day.
- It is very important that the Nurture Group staff work *together* with you to provide the best experiences for your child. We like to meet with you regularly to discuss your child's progress, what they are like at home and what the next steps will be to continue their support, we will always try to arrange a time that is convenient for you.
- If you would like to come in to see us at any time then please go to the school office to make an appointment.
- The children will have the opportunity to choose and bring a book home from the book corner on a regular basis. Please try and find a little time to share the books with your child and return them to school when you have finished.
- Please could you provide a pair of slippers or plimsolls for the children to wear in Sunshine Class. These will need to be kept at school.

How long will the children be in Sunshine Class?

Most of the children come into the Nurture Group for a maximum of 4 terms. When they first join us it is important they understand that they will eventually return to their class.

When the children are ready to return to their mainstream class then the 'reintegration process' is started. We will discuss the procedure with you and ask you to talk to your child about it at home.

The process is also discussed with the children's class teachers, the school SENCo, the Headteacher and any other people involved with individual children.

The children's return to their mainstream classes is carefully planned and will continue over a period of several weeks. The length of the reintegration will vary depending on each child and their circumstances. The children gradually spend more and more time with their class each week and will be supported by the Nurture Group Staff for some of the time.

On their last day in the Nurture Group the children will have a leaving celebration. This is a special time when everyone in Sunshine Class say goodbye to the children being reintegrated and wish them good luck in their classes. The children can bring a friend from their class to join in too.



It is very important that the children understand they are welcome to come and see us in the Nurture Group even though they are in their classes full time. They may want to show us a super piece of work or simply want to tell us some important news!
