



## Applying Nurture as a Whole School Approach at Settle College An Overview

*"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..."*

### Definition of Nurture

To **Nurture** means to care for and protect something or someone while it is growing.

We can all do this. Parents, carers, and other family members nurture children as they grow. And here at Settle College, teachers, and other school staff, nurture their students.

### What are we implementing?

Nurture groups vary in nature depending on the settings in which they take place however, the main thing they all have in common is a grounding in attachment theory, an area of psychology which explains the need for any person to be able to form secure and happy relationships with others in the formative years of their lives. At Settle College we offer this provision in light of where the world is at the present time. Cultures and individuals are more diverse than they have ever been, and we need to welcome and provide for all.

### Why should we provide Nurture provision at Settle College?

We want to provide a predictable environment in which our students can build trusting relationships with adults and gain the skills they need to learn in larger classes and in life. There will be an emphasis on systematic assessment of pupils' social, emotional and behavioural skills, on learning through play, and on sharing 'family-type' experiences, such as eating food together.

### What does Nurture do?

Nurture helps us to:

- ☺ Develop our **social** and **emotional skills**.
- ☺ Support us as we grow.
- ☺ Build our **resilience** and makes us **feel better** about ourselves.

This provision provides supportive intervention when and where needed to enhance, enrich and encourage the lives of our students and to provide a safe and nurturing space within the school environment all the while embedding the six principles into everyday teaching and learning - by addressing missing nurturing experiences, educators can help to develop the social skills needed to thrive, and the confidence and resilience to deal with whatever comes their way not just at school but for the rest of their lives.

### The Six key Principles of Nurture

These six principles are promoted and embedded as a whole school nurture approach.

- ☺ Childrens' learning is understood developmentally.
- ☺ The classroom offers a safe base.
- ☺ The importance of nurture for the development of wellbeing.
- ☺ Language is a vital means of communication.
- ☺ All behaviour is a form of communication.
- ☺ The importance of transition in our children's lives.

### How do we do this at Settle College?

We ensure that all intensive nurture interventions enable students to make academic as well as social and emotional progress. Communication between senior leaders, nurture group staff and class teachers is frequent and systematic and supports students with challenging behaviour through a nurture group approach. We systematically track and evaluate the SEMH and academic progress of the students after they leave the nurture group or any other intensive interventions to ascertain long-term impact and establish whether other support or perhaps referrals are needed.

### Successful Nurture Intervention - What does it look like?

The Nurture groups will have some clear outcomes. These are:

To hopefully significantly modify individual behaviour. To improve individuals social, emotional and behavioural skills. To give parents and carers practical support, strategies and confidence. To accelerate academic progress or restart it where it has stalled. To enable each individual to reintegrate into their mainstream class. To modify the practice of other staff, such as the class teacher. To influence the rest of the school's practice. To help to improve individuals' attendance.

**"Be the best you can be"**