



At Willingdon Community School we are working towards being accredited as a national nurturing school. This means making sure the 6 principles of nurture guide us in everything we do.

The Six 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**

Ref: Lucas,S., Insley,K. and Buckland,G. (2006) *Nurture Group Principles and Curriculum Guidelines Helping Children to Achieve*, The Nurture Group Network

A nurturing approach recognises the importance of both the environment and social opportunities in shaping children's development. Providing nurturing experiences through the school setting and curriculum, helps develop social and emotional skills, resilience and the capacity to deal with life for life.

A Nurture Group runs part time at Willingdon and provides additional support and opportunities for children and young people. Each group runs for 12 weeks. There is one forest school session, a cookery session and a session in school where the focus is on explicitly teaching children how to build emotional resilience and develop problem solving skills. Many children who are not in the Nurture Group are also given specific nurturing experiences via a range of alternative provisions that are offered as part of our commitment to inclusion.

The nurture approach is most successful when the ethos underpins everything a school does. This is why we are working hard to share and develop school wide best practice guided by the principles of nurture.