

Treetops



Information Booklet

2022-2023

Welcome to Treetops

What is Treetops?

Treetops is a small group of 6-8 P1-3 children who are consistently supported by two familiar adults, Mrs Griffiths (Nurture Teacher) and Mrs Cathcart (Nurture Support Assistant). Whilst it is based within Tinto Primary School, it is a provision for children from across the Clydesdale Area. Treetops offers a short term, focused intervention addressing barriers to learning which come from social or emotional difficulties. Children remain part of their own class group, attending their mainstream school in the morning to register and check in with their class teacher before being transported to Treetops. Children attend Treetops Monday to Friday 9.30am - 11.30am and return to their own class for afternoon sessions. Children will usually return to their own class full time after five terms, however this is flexible depending on individual circumstances.

What is Nurture?

'The concept of nurture highlights the importance of social environments – who you're with, and not who you're born to – and its significant influence on social emotional skills, wellbeing and behaviour. Children and young people who have a good start in life are shown to have significant advantages over those who have experienced missing or distorted early attachments. They tend to do better at school, attend regularly, form more meaningful friendships and are significantly less likely to offend or experience physical or mental health problems.'

(Nurture UK, 2019)

Nurture groups are developed around

Six Principles of Nurture:

- ◆ 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 communication
- ◆ The importance of transition in the lives of children and young people

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

How does Treetops work?

Children will be learning in an environment which aims to provide a 'bridge' between home and school. Therefore the room is laid out with a mixture of home and school features so the space is safe, consistent and predictable. There is a kitchen area where the children are encouraged to come together around the table and share snack . This supports a calm start to the day and provides opportunities for the children to develop a range of social skills whilst building positive relationships with each other. Interactions are supported and modelled by the two adults in the group.

There are planned experiences throughout the morning which focus on curricular activities, Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing. The rest of the morning is structured to provide opportunities to address the skills that children need to become confident and successful learners when they return to their mainstream class.

Why might children need a place in Treetops?

Treetops offers children the opportunity to revisit early learning skills to support their social and emotional development. Research shows that a child is able to learn best when they have strong self-esteem, a sense of belonging and resilience. Treetops provides children with a high adult:child ratio to help them develop the skills needed to move forward successfully and confidently as life-long learners.

Why might a child benefit from a place at Treetops?

Listed below are some of the causes of why a child may be using their behaviour to communicate that they finding accessing learning within their mainstream class a challenge:

- Friendship difficulties – keeping/making friends
- Quiet, shy, withdrawn
- Find it hard to listen to others or join in
- Disruptive towards others
- Find it hard to accept losing a game
- Find it hard to share and take turns
- Find it difficult to settle into class
- Bullying
- Low self esteem
- Poor relationships with adults in school
- Bereavement
- Family illness or break-up

What is the aim of a placement at Treetops?

By using modelling, developing Emotional Literacy and making use of relaxation techniques amongst other evidence based approaches, Treetops will boost confidence and self-esteem and provide children with the extra help sometimes needed to improve social skills and independence for example:

- To join in
- To settle
- To listen
- To concentrate
- To share and take turns
- To accept losing a game
- To build up friendships with peers
- To build trusting relationships with peers and staff





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