



The Nest



We use the following strategies with your child whilst they are with us in The Nest:

- ✓ We welcome the children with a smile.
- ✓ We give children the opportunity to talk about their feelings and emotions.
- ✓ We use praise for; positive behavioural choices, listening, turn taking, interaction, sharing, playing with others, positive verbal and non-verbal communication. You will hear us say 'I loved it when you XXX' (we are always very clear about the behaviour the child has shown).
- ✓ We always speak in a positive way; we use calm, quiet voices.
- ✓ We encourage children to spot other children/adults following the school rules.
- ✓ We model the behaviours we want the children to use.
- ✓ We praise positive behavioural choices rather than give attention to anyone making poor choices.
- ✓ We use non-verbal reminders e.g. for good sitting, showing attention.
- ✓ We talk quietly to any child struggling to regulate their behaviour and we help them recognise that they have choices, we spot when they do this!
- ✓ We encourage children to 'take risks' and try new skills.
- ✓ We build independence through encouragement.
- ✓ We celebrate achievement and effort. We let class teachers and parents know

How can parents and teachers support the nurture principles?

- ✓ Talk to your child about their time in **The Nest** and share the notes we send home. Think about using open questions e.g. "What did you enjoy about **The Nest** today?" "Who did you notice being a Hartford Hero?" "What made you proud today?"
- ✓ Notice when your child has been brave, has taken part, has made a great choice, has been kind etc and let us know so we can celebrate too!
- ✓ Complete the questionnaires we share; these help us to plan the right support and track progress.
- ✓ Share the home pack with your child and enjoy the activities that we provide.
- ✓ Update us if there is anything impacting upon your child's wellbeing!
- ✓ Talk with us. We pride ourselves on being approachable and good listeners. We want to work in partnership.

We are delighted that your child is joining us in **The Nest**. They will attend for one **afternoon** a week in a small group supported by a Specialist Teaching Assistant: **Mrs M Whitham**. **Mrs V McGregor** our SENCo works in close partnership with **Mrs M Whitham**.

Children attend nurture for a variety of reasons. It might be to:

- build self-esteem and confidence,
- build emotional resilience.
- manage behaviour,
- improve engagement in learning,
- cope with challenges out of school e.g. family breakdown, bereavement.

Progress is always tracked. The aim is always for children to feel positive and involved. We also aim to break down barriers to academic progress.

We follow the **six principles** of Nurture:

- Children's learning is understood developmentally.
- The nurture room offers a safe space.
- Nurture is important for the development of self-esteem.
- Language is a vital means of communication.
- All behaviour is communication.
- Change is important in the lives of children and it can be difficult to manage.

Join us!

Watch out for the **invitations** we send home. You will hopefully have the chance to join a **nurture** session in **The Nest** soon.

If you would like to find out more about **nurture**, please make an appointment to talk with **Mrs V McGregor**.

Contact: VMcregor@hartfordinfantschool.org