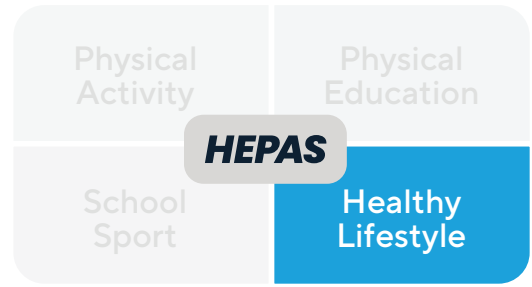


#15 Nurture Groups

Sacred Heart Primary School

United Kingdom



DESCRIPTION:

At Sacred Heart Primary, we foster a nurturing ethos throughout the school. The importance of social and emotional well-being is recognised as vital to how well a child engages in and is successful in their learning. The well-being of our pupils is developed in a safe, caring, supportive and focused environment. It is a responsibility of all staff.

Nurture provision was introduced into Sacred Heart Primary during the 2017/18 school year. Nurture groups address the social, emotional and learning needs of individual pupils by providing the necessary help to remove potential barriers to learning. There is a great emphasis on emotional literacy, language development and communication. Pupils are immersed in an accepting and warm environment that helps replace missing or distorted early nurturing experiences and helps pupils develop positive relationships with teachers and peers. At Sacred Heart Primary school, we currently have 3 nurture groups based on students' individual social and emotional needs. Each group has no more than 6 pupils and is run by 2 staff members. Pupils attend twice weekly for a morning or afternoon session. Our Nurture base is a hybrid of home and school; soft furnishings, toys, mini kitchen with sink and tables where children can sit to eat and/or chat and engage in regular curricular activities.

Pupils are identified for Nurture through Boxall Profiling. This is a two-part assessment tool designed to track the progress of children's and young people's cognitive development and behavioural traits throughout their education. The checklist is completed by staff who know the child best and identifies the levels of skills that this child possesses to access learning successfully. Many children in school are insecure about their worth and may not have developed the emotional literacy to suitably articulate their feelings; instead, they show their discomfort through their behaviours. At Sacred Heart Primary, all behaviour is communication and time is taken with each child to explore and understand their behaviours. Through Boxall Profiling and the delivery of nurture, we are providing our pupils with the social and emotional skills necessary to build positive relationships with others, feel safe in school, be able to engage in their learning and ultimately achieve.

All staff in our school are trained in Mental Health First Aid. This is an initial response to distress; supporting children and young people who are experiencing crisis and where appropriate, signposting them to other suitable professionals for help. Being trained in such an approach meets the Scottish Government's 10-year strategic vision to prevent and treat mental health with a variety of interventions and accessible services. There is a strong link between geographic deprivation and mental health, and as our school is situated in an area of deprivation, the likelihood of our children and young people experiencing poor mental health is greater than for those living in less deprived areas.

Prevention and early intervention are key to minimising the prevalence and incidence of poor mental health and the severity and lifetime impact of mental disorders and mental illness. At Sacred Heart Primary, the social and emotional well-being of our pupils is and will remain a priority.



SOCIAL INTERACTION

The initiative requires communication and interaction between children and all school staff.



IMPACT ON ATTITUDES


As the children's social and emotional well-being is consistently in the centre, it might positively influence their development and contribute to a positive attitude towards learning.

ORGANISATIONAL NEEDS

The outcomes can be accessed by evaluating possible improvement in the school's social and emotional climate.

If you want to know more about the practice

 Contact: Linsey McKinney



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