



Ridgeway Nurture



What is Ridgeway Nurture ?

Ridgeway Nurture is a space in school where children come to focus on **social, emotional or behavioural learning** which could positively affect their **wellbeing, friendships and ability to learn.**



Our aim is to:

- Provide support and guidance to establish **life skills** which will enable children to fully access the curriculum and reach their potential.
- Guide children to find a way to **understand their emotions** and responses to the world around them.
- Encourage them to establish **confidence and self-esteem**, which in turn enables them to have **positive experiences and relationships** in school.
- Ensure that school is a **happy experience** where children feel **nurtured** and have their **individuality celebrated.**

What do children say?

It is a good place to calm down and the staff are supportive.

Ridgeway Nurture makes me feel happy—it is the best place to be!

It helps my learning get bigger and bigger and gooder and gooder.

Friday cooking is the best—pizza was my favourite.

Who works in Ridgeway Nurture ?

The Ridgeway Nurture team is (left to right): Chris Avery, Charlotte Robinson and Gemma Hall.

The team have worked together to establish positive relationships with children and their families, giving support and using their skills and training to support children with creative solutions to the emotional and behavioural challenges they sometimes face.

Ridgeway Nurture is flexible and able to adapt to suit the needs of the children. We are committed to working closely with children to find the most effective strategies and interventions to help them.

As a team we regularly update our knowledge and training. We work alongside class teachers, parents, TAs, the SENCo and the Headship Team to ensure that there is a joined up approach and that key social and emotional learning can be translated and emulated back in the classroom environment.

If parents have any questions about their own child, then they should speak to their child's class teacher. If there are any more general questions that parents would like to ask about the provision offered by Ridgeway Nurture, then please email the Ridgeway Nurture team via the school office address.



Where can you find us?

We are based along the KS2 corridor, to the right of the library. Our Nurture Room is equipped with all the resources a classroom might have, plus a comfortable place to sit and a safe space to talk about feelings and sometimes friendship struggles and worries. We have a range of resources to support children to problem solve and become more independent in managing emotions and relationships.

Who uses Ridgeway Nurture ?

Children from across the whole school, from Nursery to Year 6 can access Ridgeway Nurture.

Class teachers are able to refer children they feel would benefit from the support. They will always speak to parents before any planned interventions take place.

Ridgeway Nurture offers a Breakfast Club to support selected children with transition at the start of the school day. It is also open to support children at break times and can be successful as a short term plan to scaffold peer relationships and social interactions.

We also have a post-box where children can post a letter asking for an appointment to talk with one of the Nurture team adults. We then arrange a time to meet and talk with them about any problems they have and support with solutions and strategies.



There is an adult available for outreach support during almost every session in the school day. Our outreach involves: short term interventions; working with children in class; supporting class adults to implement behaviour support systems; delivering class assemblies; modelling strategies for supporting children.

Some of our children may only need us for a short term and others will access our support on a more regularly basis, if needed.

What interventions does Ridgeway Nurture offer?

We focus on creating an understanding of: *social skills, friendships, feelings, empathy, playing games together and turn taking, sharing, role play, partner/group activities, social communication, listening skills, building self-confidence, anxiety, attachment, bereavement, separation, sibling relationships, coping with the challenges of being a young person in the 21st century, transition from one year to another, what makes us unique.*

Currently Ridgeway Nurture provides: *mentoring / check-ins, bereavement support, sibling support, 'Drawing and Talking' therapy, 'Sand Play' therapy, 'Theraplay' social communication groups, behaviour support, cooking, life skills, breakfast club, nurture groups, friendship support, and emotional understanding.*

Most of the children who attend Ridgeway Nurture are timetabled for regular weekly sessions, which typically last 6 weeks. Some of the more specialised therapies can last 12 weeks. Children work towards achieving individual targets related to their social and emotional development. The team gives regular feedback to the class teacher, who will feed back to parents.

What impact does Ridgeway Nurture have?

The aim of any intervention is to equip children with skills which they can then transfer to other areas of their life, including the classroom, playground and home.

Children who have been supported by Ridgeway Nurture often make measurable and significant progress in their emotional learning and become independent, successful members of their class.

