



Cuiken Primary School, 150 Cuiken Terrace, Penicuik, EH26 0AH

Cuiken Enhanced Nurture Provision is attached to Cuiken Primary School. While our children engage in the majority of their learning within the provision and their base schools, we do work in partnership with Cuiken Primary. We share key spaces such as the gym hall, dining room and playground. We also can access visiting specialists to support learning and teaching. The staff and children from the provision and main school regularly share learning opportunities, reflecting the nurturing approach developed throughout the whole of Cuiken Primary and the wonderful local community we are based within.

What is a nurturing approach?

To understand what we offer at Cuiken Enhanced Nurture Provision, it is important to develop a shared understanding of nurturing approaches within schools. Education Scotland (Applying Nurture as a Whole School Approach, Education Scotland and Glasgow City Council) state the following:

A nurturing approach can be applied at both the universal and targeted level and promotes inclusive, respectful relationships across the whole school community, including learners, staff, parents/carers and partners.

Marjory Boxall gave the following description of a Nurture Group: "The emphasis within a nurture group is on emotional growth, focusing on offering broad-based experiences in an environment that promotes security, routines, clear boundaries and carefully planned, repetitive learning opportunities. The aim of the nurture group is to create the world of earliest childhood, build in the basic and essential learning experiences normally gained in the first three years of life and enable learners and young people to fully meet their potential in mainstream schools." (Boxall, 2002 13).

A nurturing approach recognises that positive relationships are central to both learning and wellbeing. A key aspect of a nurturing approach is an understanding of attachment theory and how early experiences can have a significant impact on development. It recognises that all school/ELC settings staff have a role to play in establishing the positive relationships that are required to promote healthy social and emotional development and that these relationships should be reliable, predictable and consistent where possible. A

nurturing approach has a key focus on the school environment and emphasises the balance between care and challenge which incorporates attunement, warmth and connection alongside structure, high expectations and a focus on achievement and attainment. It is based on the understanding of 6 Nurturing Principles which have been adapted and are outlined below:

- 1. Children's learning is understood developmentally (NP 1)*
- 2. The environment offers a safe base (NP 2)*
- 3. The importance of nurture for the development of wellbeing (NP3)*
- 4. Language is a vital means of communication (NP 4)*
- 5. All behaviour is communication (NP 5)*
- 6. Transitions are important in children and young people's lives (NP 6)*

What do we offer?

At Cuiken Enhanced Nurture Provision we support learners who require specialised and targeted interventions to address their social, emotional and behavioural needs. While we are geographically situated within our own base at Cuiken Primary School, we offer a shared placement with schools across Midlothian and work in partnership with the learner's school, parents/carers and partner agencies. We can also offer support within the learner's base school through our Outreach Teacher.

The Provision is responsible for providing a supportive and nurturing environment with a broad range of learning opportunities to support social and emotional development. This includes planning engaging and responsive activities within different spaces that includes a playroom, kitchen and outdoor space incorporating a garden area. To ensure positive relationships are central to everything we do, our Provision has three aims that are regularly shared with learners: Be Safe, Be Kind and Achieve. We have staff trained in Nature Play, Drawing and Talking Therapy and access to art, music and PE specialists within the mainstream school. All staff are trained in Team Teach which emphasises the use of verbal and non-verbal de-escalation strategies and positive handling techniques to maintain positive relationships.

For further information specifically related to Cuiken Enhanced Nurture Provision please contact:
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