

A stylized illustration of a landscape. The sky is composed of horizontal wavy bands of light blue and white. In the foreground, there are rolling green hills with dark brown soil. On the left, there is a green tree with a brown trunk and a purple flower with a brown stem. A red bird is flying in the sky. The text "What is nurture?" is written in a brown, cursive font in the center of the image.

What is nurture?

What makes a nurturing school?

- *Calm safe environment for all.*
- *Somewhere for children to have food and drink.*
- *Non judgemental.*
- *Open door policy.*

The creation of Nurture Groups

- Nurture groups were developed in the 1970s by Marjorie Boxall, an Educational Psychologist.
- This was in response to a need in an area of London with high social deprivation.
- Many children were found to be unable to meet the expectations of a mainstream school environment due to the poor quality of their early social and emotional experiences.
- These experiences (or lack of), had the potential to present to cause attachment disorders.

What are Nurture Groups?

- Nurture groups are small group interventions designed to equip children with the understanding and skills to engage effectively with the education system and with others around them.
- A Classic Nurture Group:
 - Children attend for a large percentage of their weekly timetable
 - the group contains 8-10 learners and two adults
 - learners remain in the group for 2-4 terms

Six Principles of nurture

- 1. Learning is understood developmentally*
- 2. The classroom offers a safe base*
- 3. Nurture is important for development of self esteem.*
- 4. Language is understood as vital means of communication*
- 5. All behaviour is communication*
- 6. Transitions are significant in the lives of children*

What is the Boxall Profile?

- *A diagnostic assessment tool designed to assess the specific areas of need for learners exhibiting social, emotional and behavioural difficulties.*
- *It identifies positive and negative behaviours through two questionnaires – one to assess positive behaviours and one to assess negative behaviours.*
- *It suggests an order in which to address the identified developmental needs and negative behaviours.*
- *We will now be completing our Boxall Profiles on line. This will be quicker and easier.*

The relevance of nurture to our children

- *In addition to attachment disorders and poor quality early life experiences, many of our children may also experience social, emotional and behavioural difficulties as a result of other factors.*
- *These may include bereavement, loss, trauma and the necessary transitions made during this period of life, from school to high school and from dependence to independence.*
- *Nurture groups can provide a safe base and support for these learners as a stepping stone to independent, effective learning.*

