


*Pastoral Care  
at  
Crestwood Park*





At Crestwood Park we make the well-being of our children and their families a priority. We pride ourselves in developing open and honest relationships, as we believe this builds trust which allows us to really get to know our families. Supporting our children's well-being helps them to flourish and achieve their full potential but more importantly gives them resilience and skills for life.

### *What is Pastoral Care?*

Pastoral care is a provision in school which ensures the physical and emotional wellbeing of every child.

It will be clear a pastoral support program is working because all children will feel safe, listened to, loved, happy, involved in their school community and able to perform to their full potential along their education journey. Happy pupils will integrate well with others and be socially confident. As professionals, it is our duty to observe the whole child and intervene early where we feel necessary.

### *How will we give the support and who will it be given by?*

A child will be identified for support and referred to the pastoral team. Referrals can be made by staff, parents and outside agencies. An initial assessment is completed so that staff can determine which kind of support is needed. After a conversation with parents support will begin.

Support sessions for children are carried out during the school day by a member of the pastoral team. The sessions take place in our meadow room which is a homely, calm environment away from the classroom. Support is given on a 1:1 basis or in a small group depending on need.

We offer Nurture, Social skills, Self-esteem and Friendship groups together with 1:1 support for Bereavement, Anxiety, Sleep, Separation, Attachment and any programme suggested by an external agency. We work with Nurture Network, CAMH's, our Educational Psychologist, Barnardos, Black Country Women's Aid, Mary Stevens Hospice and our school nurse to name a few.

The school's Senior Leadership Team and Pastoral Lead will ensure that the appropriate training and resources are provided for staff. There is an on-going programme of Professional Development for staff involved with Nurture and Pastoral Support. In cases where we may lack the expertise to deal with more unusual or particular needs, we seek advice from a wide range of external agencies and specialists.

### ***What will we do at the end of any period of additional support?***

Any period of support, regardless of its length, will be evaluated in terms of the impact it has had on a child. At this point the Pastoral lead will determine whether support can come to a natural end, needs to be altered or continued. Parents will be contacted to discuss ways moving forward.

### ***How do the Pastoral team support during a typical day?***

In addition to the support given through group work or 1:1 support, the team are available during the unstructured times of the day. Breaktimes and lunchtimes can be overwhelming for some children. Support is offered in the meadow, where children can eat in a calm environment and interact with others. Staff are trained to identify children who may need a little extra support. We also recognise that transition times can be difficult for some, to support this we offer a soft start, these take place at 8.45am where children spend time in the meadow to begin their day gently, before joining their classmates to start the school day.

We are also alert to factors which increase a child's vulnerability or potential vulnerability, such as mental ill health, domestic abuse, having additional needs and being at a greater risk of exploitation and/or feeling unable to report abuse. Intervening early is vital to support these children and their families.

### ***How does a parent enquire about getting additional support for their child?***

If a parent has a concern and is worried about their child, they can contact school in a variety of ways:

- Speak to Mrs Kennedy (Head teacher)
- Speak to Mrs Priest (Pastoral Lead)
- Speak to the class teacher at 'drop off'.

We are happy to share information about the programmes we follow and the resources we use, please enquire through the school office.

Here's what our children and parents have to say about pastoral care at Crestwood Park:

"Little Buddies prepares children for the big, wide world."

"It feels like one big family."

"I love the way we [parents] get to be involved in Little Buddies too!"

"The calm time and small groups have helped me to cope better in the classroom."

"The adults care about us."

"\*\*\* looks forward to his weekly sessions and he has benefitted greatly from the pastoral support."



