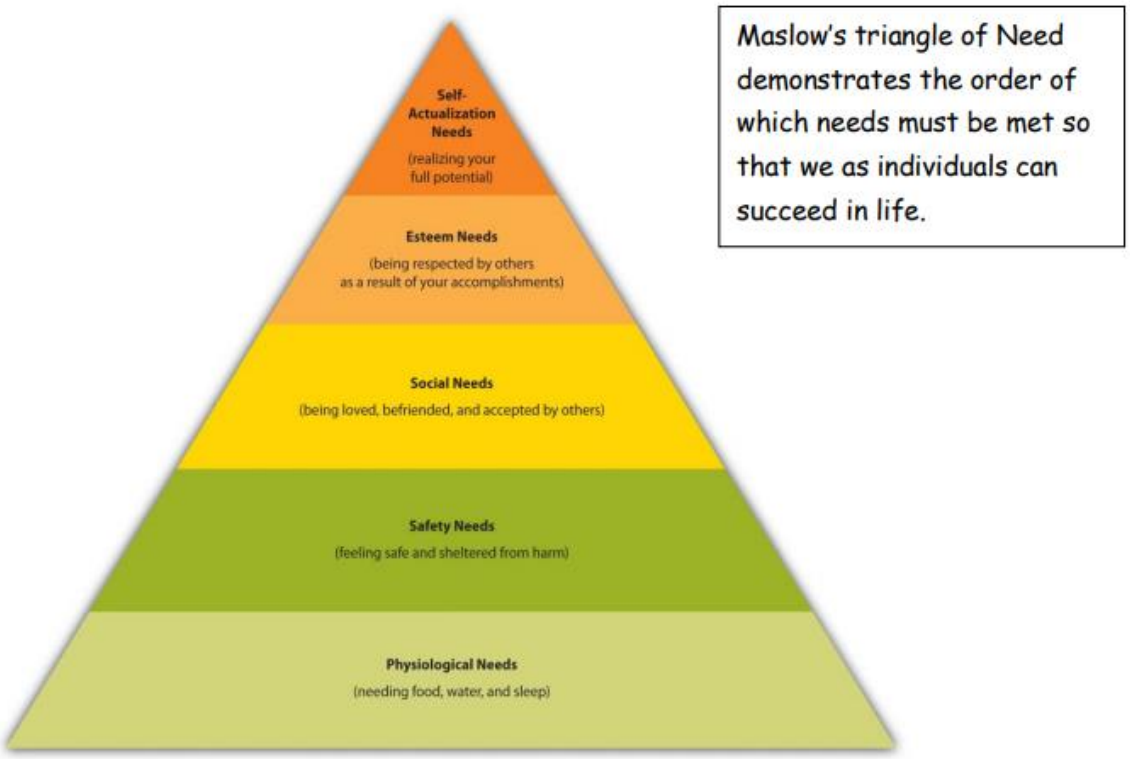
Nurture Room Policy 2021 - 22

In effect, a nurture group is inclusive early intervention and prevention for the development of social, emotional and behavioural difficulties within a mainstream setting. It is also a provision in which the day is one of carefully structured routines providing a balance of learning, teaching, affection and structure within a homelike environment. It is also a group in which children are placed not due to their limitations with regard to ability, but simply because they have missed out on early experiences that promote good development – particularly in the areas of social, emotional and behavioural skills. Nurture groups offer a context and a model of relationships to children who have been missing out, or who have insufficiently internalised essential early learning experiences.



At Emscote we use two adults for up to 6 children, and offer short or medium placements where the children attend regularly. They usually fully return to their mainstream classroom within two to four terms. Children are profiled using the Boxall Profile within the first few weeks of attending. This helps to show progress and identify support required. We work closely with the Specialist Teaching Service the Educational Psychology Service to offer this exciting provision.

Nurture groups do not in any sense stigmatise the children who attend since the intervention is planned as part of a whole-school approach to supporting children. In fact, the children generally have strong links with their mainstream class, e.g. registering there in the morning if this is best, attending selective activities and spending social time in lunchtimes with their classroom peer group.

In addition to this we offer Lego therapy, Me Club and external counselling. We also have close links with Family Information Service, the Church and other support professionals.

Principles of a Nurture Group

All Nurture Groups adhere to the six principles set out by the Nurture Group Network

1. Children's learning is understood developmentally
2. The classroom offers a safe place
3. Language is a vital means of communication
4. Nurture is important for the development of self esteem
5. All behaviour is a communication
6. The importance of transition in a child's life