

The Nurture Schools Programme is an initiative by Educate Together, launched in 2020, aimed at supporting students with social, emotional, and behavioural difficulties to re-engage with their education. We are fortunate here in Holywell ETNS to be part of the Nurture School's programme and have trained staff members on hand to support students.

Key Components of the Programme:

- **Nurture Approach:** This evidence-based intervention focuses on individual students' emotional, social, and learning needs. By addressing barriers to learning, it emphasizes emotional literacy, language development, relationships, and communication.
- **Whole-School Implementation:** The programme is both a whole-school initiative and a targeted short-term intervention. It involves training school staff, including principals, teachers, and special needs assistants, to adopt nurture practices and create supportive learning environments.

[Nurturing Schools Ireland](#)

- **Professional Development:** Educators receive training in trauma-informed care, restorative practices, and culturally responsive teaching. This comprehensive professional development equips them to effectively support students from diverse backgrounds.
- **Use of the Boxall Profile:** Teachers utilize the Boxall Profile, a detailed assessment tool that evaluates the social, emotional, and behavioural functioning of children and young people. This tool helps in creating individualized plans to address specific needs.

Impact and Evaluation:

An external evaluation conducted in 2023 reported positive outcomes, including:

- Increased student confidence and reduced anxiety.
- Improved communication skills and self-regulation.
- Enhanced enjoyment of school, leading to better attendance and participation.
- Improved relationships with teachers and peers.
- Reduction in disruptive behaviours and overall improvement in school behaviour.

Future Prospects:

Educate Together aims to expand the Nurture Schools Programme to more schools nationwide, advocating for the approach to be available across all educational

settings. The programme has been recognized as a cost-effective intervention that aligns with national educational policy.

For more detailed information, you can visit Educate Together's official page on the Nurture Schools Project <https://www.educatetogether.ie/campaigns/nurture-schools-project>

