

Recovery Curriculum

Children returning to school following lockdown have experienced loss (routine, freedom, relationships, social interaction structure) and have lived through a collective trauma.

"From loss emanates three significant dynamics that will impact majorly on the mental health of our children. Anxiety, trauma and bereavement are powerful forces. For them all to appear at once in an untimely and unplanned fashion is significant for the developing child. Our children are vulnerable at this time, and their mental-health fragile. And on top of that, they are witnessing a sea of adult anxiety, which they unwittingly are absorbing."

Barry Carpenter.

<https://www.evidenceforlearning.net/recoverycurriculum/>

Intent

- The intention of a Recovery Curriculum is to provide opportunities to rebuild relationships and a sense of community, space to re-establish a sense of self and to relearn behaviour for learning skills.
- The focus will be gently returning to some semblance of routine whilst enabling play, outdoor exploration and physical development. In between and in addition to these sessions, there will be timetabled sessions in the pool, interaction zone and hall.
- Planned activities can be done in any order and can be extended or reduced to suit the needs of the group at the time.
- The usual Movement Programme and Positive Behaviour Management should occur alongside this work

Implementation

- Due to staggered and part-time access for students during the summer term, it seems reasonable and appropriate that class teachers may use the pre-existing Recovery Curriculum planning format and adjust it to suit the needs of their class.
- They may choose to add additional sessions or remove sessions.
- Tapestry observations should continue during this time, but there will be no formal assessment of curriculum subjects at this stage. We are exploring Thrive and Engagement Models of assessment ahead of January.
- In addition, teachers have been provided with planning to extend outdoor learning opportunities and to maximise the time spent outside.
- Physical opportunities will also be further developed via a sensory circuit, 'Dough Disco', Cosmic Kids yoga and 'wake up, shake up' style activities.
- The re-introduction of curriculum subjects will occur via continuous provision, heuristic play, loose parts play and treasure baskets.

Impact

- During this first term back in school, we will provide a gentle and calm approach to education focusing on creating joy, warmth and comfort to support child-led learning. This ethos aims to have a positive and significant impact on mental health which ought to be long lasting.
- This approach should also offer staff the opportunity to consider their own wellbeing on return to school, focusing on joyful experiences and reducing workload.
- It will also give us an opportunity to work together on developing our curriculum and whole school ethos moving forward.
- Following the Recovery Curriculum, we would anticipate that children would be re-familiarised with the site, routines and structures of school, have re-learned the necessary behaviour for learning and have developed emotional regulation and coping strategies which will be beneficial for life.