



Ironville and Codnor Park Primary School

Believe Achieve Succeed



Welcome to 'The Nest'



A Guide for Parents and Carers

What is The Nest?

The Nest is a small, supportive learning environment for children in Years 3 to 6 who may find some aspects of a busy mainstream classroom challenging.

Some children need extra help with:

- Social and emotional development
- Managing feelings and behaviour
- Communication and interaction
- Sensory needs
- Confidence and self-regulation

The Nest provides a calm, nurturing space where children can develop these skills while continuing to be part of the wider school community. The provision is staffed by experienced adults and usually supports up to four children at a time.

How does The Nest help children?

Our aim is to help children:

- Feel safe, happy and supported in school
- Build confidence and self-esteem
- Develop friendships and social understanding
- Learn how to manage emotions and behaviour
- Become more independent learners
- Successfully access their mainstream classroom

Every child has an individual plan designed around their strengths and needs.

Who works in 'The Nest'?

A dedicated team works together to support every child. The core team includes:

- Mrs Nicholson, Higher Level Teaching Assistant
- Mrs Bowler, Class Teacher
- Mrs Bourne, SENDCo

Supported by other Teaching Assistants, staff work closely together to plan learning, monitor progress and meet each child's individual needs.

Who else helps support my child?

When needed, we work with specialist professionals who can provide advice and support.

This may include Speech and Language Therapists, Educational Psychologists, Health professionals and Derbyshire SEND services. Their advice helps us provide the best possible support for each child.

The learning environment

The Nest provides:

- A calm and nurturing classroom
- Small group learning

- Visual timetables and routines
- Sensory support where needed
- Quiet spaces for regulation and reflection
- Structured activities and clear expectations

Children also have regular opportunities for outdoor learning, PE and teamwork activities.

What do children learn in The Nest?

The Nest focuses on developing:

- Social skills
- Emotional understanding
- Self-regulation
- Confidence
- Flexible thinking
- Communication skills

Children take part in activities based on the **Superflex Social Thinking Curriculum**, alongside:

- Enquiry-based learning
- Social communication activities
- Enrichment opportunities
- Individual support programmes
- Speech and Language interventions where needed

The Nest also follows the school's:

- **Zones of Regulation** approach
- **RESPECT** values and behaviour curriculum

Children continue to access extracurricular clubs and wider school opportunities where appropriate.

How are children offered a place?

Children are identified by their teachers who may be struggling in the following areas due to their social and emotional or neuro development needs:

- Academic outcomes and attainment
- Attendance
- Engagement
- Social relationships and regulation

Before a place in The Nest is considered, children receive support in their classroom through the school's graduated approach. If extra support is needed, school staff, parents/carers and the child work together to discuss whether The Nest would be beneficial.

A place is only offered following discussion and agreement with:

- Parents and carers
- The child
- School staff

How does The Nest help my child belong in school?

Children in The Nest remain members of their mainstream class and need to be connected to their peers.

Depending on their needs, they may regularly join their class for:

- PE lessons
- Music
- PSHE
- Commando Joe sessions
- School trips
- Performances and productions
- Leadership opportunities such as School Council or Mini Leaders

Where appropriate, children may also spend time in class with friends from their year group and take part in special activities within school.

How is progress monitored?

We monitor each child's progress carefully through:

- Daily observations
- Individual targets
- Termly reviews with families
- Regular assessment of social, emotional and learning development

Some children may also have:

- Individual support plans
- Inclusion Funding support
- An Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

Progress is reviewed regularly with parents, school staff and any professionals involved.

How does my child move back into their mainstream class?

When children are ready and met their individual targets, a gradual reintegration programme may be planned.

This could include:

- Spending increasing amounts of time in class
- Additional adult support
- A buddy system to help children feel confident and connected

Decisions about reintegration are based on each child's progress and involve both parents/carers and the child. Children's progress will be monitored after reintegration.

How do you work together with families?

Strong home-school communication is very important.

We support families by:

- Providing regular feedback about how the day has gone
- Sharing strategies that can be used at home
- Holding termly review meetings

- Listening to parent and child views when setting targets and planning support

We believe children achieve their best when families and school work together.

How can I help my child at home?

You can support your child by:

- Reading together every day,
- Talking about feelings,
- Encouraging independence,
- Practising listening skills,
- Playing games that involve sharing and taking turns,
- Praising effort and resilience.

Small, everyday activities can make a big difference.

Our commitment

At Ironville and Codnor Park Primary School, The Nest aims to help every child feel valued, included and successful. We work closely with families to provide a supportive environment where children can develop the skills, confidence and resilience they need to thrive both in school and beyond.