



THRIVE at St Margaret's Academy

At St Margaret's Academy we are committed to creating a learning environment where each child reaches his / her potential. For many children their academic and social/emotional needs are met through day to day teaching and without the need for additional support. However, research into child development has shown that for some children, an interruption or lack of experience in early emotional development can be expressed through challenging or unhealthy behaviour. Fortunately, research also shows that in almost every case it is possible to do reparative work for children with emotional needs, and the key to success is the relationship between adults and children.

THRIVE is an approach which helps to identify gaps in children's emotional development and provides simple strategies to address them. As a result, the children are better able to engage in learning and gain skills for future success in their relationships with others. The adult-child relationship is at the heart of THRIVE and is based on attachment theory and the work of Dan Hughes. This work suggests that in a healthy adult-child relationship, the adult should embrace being:

- Playful
- Loving
- Accepting
- Curious
- Empathetic

These expectations are known by the acronym PLACE and form the basis of the adult-child interaction.

We have been using THRIVE for several years and the THRIVE approach is therefore embedded throughout the school. Assessments on all the children are completed by the class teachers using the THRIVE online assessment tool. If we feel your child would benefit from individual or small group support we would discuss this with you. We believe parents and carers play a vital role and we want to work in partnership with you to support your child. Support may be short term to re-engage the child in learning or support him / her during a period of bereavement or loss; it might also be longer term if that was felt necessary.

We have seen many children benefit from THRIVE support - it has the potential to:

- enhance the quality of relationships
- build emotional capacity (resilience , reflection)
- help children engage with learning
- extend emotional literacy
- contribute to the raising of attainment and achievement

More information can be found on the THRIVE website: www.thriveapproach.co.uk or if you have any questions about THRIVE or your child's social and emotional development, please talk to your child's class teacher, Mrs Wills or Mrs Pike (SENCO).