



## Westfield Nursery School Act of Kindness Statement

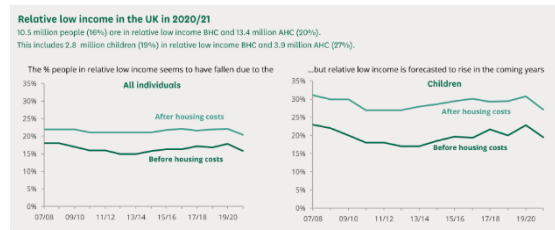
### Vision

At Westfield Nursery we aim to deliver against our vision 'Inspired beginnings, outstanding futures.'

### Rationale

We recognise the difficulties for some families.

Around one in six people in the UK are in relative low income before housing costs (BHC), rising to around one in five once we account for housing costs (AHC).



Some groups are more likely than others to be in poverty. In 2019/20, poverty rates were highest for people in households where the head of the household is from the Pakistani or Bangladeshi ethnic groups. Around 40% of working-age adults in workless families were in relative poverty before housing costs. 46% of social renters and 33% of private renters were in relative poverty. The proportion of people in relative low income before housing costs (BHC) was 23% for families where someone is disabled.

In 2019-2020

- 3.2 million children were in relative low income before housing costs (23% of children), an increase from the year before.
- 4.3 million were in relative low income after housing costs (31%) about the same as the year before.
- The percentage of children in relatively low-income households has been slowly increasing

(House of Commons Library)

The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 combines 39 indicators to produce a single overall deprivation score for every Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) in England. (Central Bedfordshire is divided into 157 LSOAs, each containing around 1,600 people. Each LSOA is identified using the name of the ward plus a unique three-digit code.)

Central Bedfordshire LSOAs which are in the 20-30% most deprived in England include:

- Dunstable Northfields 595
- Dunstable Central / Dunstable Northfields 568
- Houghton Hall / Tithe Farm (618)
- Houghton Hall (580)
- Parkside (601)

(Central Bedfordshire statistics and census information)

### Philosophy

At Westfield Nursery we want all children and families to have enough of the basic staples such as food and appropriate clothing to meet basic physiological needs.

### Who can we help?

All families may need help and we recognise circumstances vary, but families needing extra support may include:

- Families entitled to 2-year-old or EYPP funding
- The working poor, who are on very low incomes and do not qualify for free school meals
- Those experiencing domestic abuse where the abuser keeps financial control
- Those with no recourse to public funds
- Families who have had a sudden bereavement
- Families experiencing housing issues
- Families experiencing a sudden change in circumstance e.g. unemployment

**How can we help?**

Nursery has a kind benefactor and so has recourse to support families who they are aware may need some essential extras, such as

- Basic food e.g. tins/ packets
- Toiletries e.g. soap/ toothpaste
- Clothing e.g. coat/ hat/ gloves
- Basic stationery e.g. paper/ pencils

We can also signpost families for further support, for example to the Dunstable Locality Children's Centre.

**What should you do?**

Please

- ✓ Access the larder for basic food, toiletries, cleaning products
- ✓ Access the home learning packs for basic stationery
- ✓ Access the pre-loved uniform
- ✓ Ask your child's class leader or the Headteacher if you need something else e.g. buggy

*Please note we do not give money.*

**Conclusion**

All families need support at times, whatever their circumstances. We want our children and their families to thrive and will do our best to support this.

Updated: December 2023

Review: December 2024