



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. In March 2023, 9.7% of children in Central Bedfordshire were living in relative poverty. Some areas have higher levels of poverty, including Northfields.

Deprivation

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. Ten Central Bedfordshire LSOAs are in the 20-30% most deprived in England including Dunstable Northfields 595

Source: MHCLG, **Indices of Deprivation** – Index of Multiple Deprivation, 2019.

In the UK, 3.2 million children are in poverty, a national child poverty rate of 22%, according to the latest figures for 2022/23. Child poverty rates in the UK have long been substantial – and they are high by international standards, especially when compared with other advanced economies. 9 Jul 2024 (Economics Observatory)

Changes since 2015

Dunstable Northfields is now in the 20-30% most deprived in England. In 2015 it was in the 30-40% most deprived in England and was the 14th most deprived area in Central Bedfordshire.

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 at different times 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: January 2025

Review: January 2026