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. 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.

Deprivation
Central Bedfordshire is ranked 134th most deprived out of 153 upper-tier local authorities in England. Data indicates a high number of children in low-income families, with roughly 1 in 10 children living in poverty, and concerns about rising trends. More than 1 in 20 households in Central Bedfordshire are in fuel poverty. Unemployment rose to 3.2% (approx. 5,400 people) in late 2023.

Four Central Bedfordshire Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are in the 10 to 20% most deprived in England (including Dunstable South 594 and Houghton Regis East 602). A further eight Central Bedfordshire LSOAs are in the 20 to 30% most deprived in England (including Houghton Regis East 601, Houghton Regis East 619, Dunstable Central / Dunstable East / Dunstable North 568, Dunstable North 596)
Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), **English Indices of Deprivation 2025** – Index of Multiple Deprivation.

Changes since 2019
The methodology has changed since 2019 and now includes 55 indicators (previously 39). Overall, a similar number of areas are in the most deprived ranges compared with 2019:

- four LSOAs are in the most deprived 10 to 20% in England, compared to three in 2019
- eight LSOAs are in the most deprived 20 to 30% in England, compared to ten in 2019

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/27/about_your_council/180/statistics_and_census_information/3#:~:text=The%20Index%20of%20Multiple%20Deprivation%20(IMD)%202025,Heath%20&%20Reach%20*%20Leighton%20Buzzard%20North

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.

Who else can help?
If you don't know who else to ask for help, we can support with that too. We can contact the Building Resilience in Families (BRIF) panel, we can open an Early Help Assessment (EHA). We can signpost- for example to the citizens advice bureau or the Dunstable Children's Centre.

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: May 2026
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