



Saplings Alternative Provision: Frequently Asked Questions

- **What is Saplings?**

Saplings is a small group of up to 6 children based within South Rise and staffed by two supportive adults. Saplings offers a short term focused intervention which addresses barriers to learning which come from social or emotional difficulties. Children remain part of their own class group and usually return to their own class full time after a maximum of four terms.

- **How does Saplings work?**

Your child will be learning in an environment where the furniture is a mixture of home and school so the space is safe, consistent and predictable for your child. There is a kitchen area which provides them with breakfast, which supports a calm start to the day. They are taught English, Maths and Phonics by a qualified teacher. The rest of the day is structured so to provide opportunities to address skills they need to become successful learners when they return to their mainstream class.

- **Why does my child need a place in Saplings?**

Saplings offer your child the opportunity to revisit early learning skills to support their social and emotional development. Research shows that a child is able to learn best when they have strong self-esteem, a sense of belonging and resilience. Saplings provide your child with a ratio of 1:3 adults to help your child develop these skills needed to move forward successfully as a life long learner.

- **What sort of reasons causes a child to need a place in Saplings?**

Below are some of the causes of why a child may be using their behaviour to communicate that they are struggling to learn currently in their main class:

- Friendship difficulties – keeping/making friends
- Quiet, shy, withdrawn
- Find it hard to listen to others or join in
- Disruptive towards others
- Find it hard to accept losing a game
- Find it hard to share and take turns
- Find it a bit difficult to settle into class

- Bullying
- Low self esteem
- Poor relationships with adults in school
- Bereavement
- Family illness or break-up

- **How will Saplings help my child?**

Saplings will boost confidence and self esteem and provide children with the extra help sometimes needed to improve social skills and independence for example:

To join in

- To settle
- To listen
- To concentrate
- To share and take turns
- To accept losing a game
- To build up friendships with their classmates
- It gives them a chance and helps to encourage a more positive profile among their peers and members of staff.

How can I be involved?

The more parental involvement the children have while they are in Saplings the greater the positive impact of their time in the group. We are open from 3pm on Wednesday and Friday afternoons to meet you and for you to share in your child's achievements and successes.