

Appendix 5 (a): Children and young people Focus Group discussion prompts

Background

Please explain the following to the group before starting:

We are trying to work out if our school is a Nurturing school and to help us do this we are going to ask you some questions about what it means for a school to be nurturing and then ask you if you think that our school is nurturing in how it does things.

If a group of children/young people struggle with describing Nurture you might give the following as an illustration.

“Being nurturing means that everyone tries to be supportive and helpful to each other in the school. It means that it is a safe place where everyone is valued and looked after and encouraged.”

You do not need to use every prompt given below but should adapt these to your context and to the needs of the children and young people in the group.

Prompt 1

What do you think it means for a school to be nurturing? What would a nurturing school look like? What would it feel like? What would you see? What would you hear? (If necessary use the surroundings of the nurture group if you are asking questions there to prompt them.)

Additional Questions:

Do you think that our school is nurturing? What tells you that it is nurturing? What could it do to become more nurturing?

Prompt 2

What does a nurturing classroom look like? What does it feel like? What would you see? What would you hear? Can you give me an example of a class you have been in that feels nurturing? Can you describe what you might be doing in a nurturing classroom?

Additional Questions:

Do you think that your classroom is nurturing? What tells you that it is nurturing? What could it do to become more nurturing?

Prompt 3

What would your teacher be doing in a nurturing classroom? Can you think of an example of when a teacher was being nurturing? What were they doing? What were you doing? How did you feel?

Additional Questions:

Do you think that the teachers in our school are nurturing? What tells you that what they are doing is nurturing? What could they do to become more nurturing?

Prompt 4

What would other staff who help us in our school be doing in a nurturing school? What would the HT/DHT be doing? What would the support staff be doing? The janitor? The dinner ladies? The visitors to the school? What would the children or young people be doing?

Additional Questions:

Do you think that other staff in our school are nurturing? What tells you that what they are doing is nurturing? What could they do to become more nurturing?

Prompt 5

There are 6 Nurturing Principles and I am going to try and ask you a little bit about them.

1. What does the school do to help you to get your learning right, what do the teachers do? How do they help you? Do you feel that the learning and activities in the school are right for you? (can you give an example)
2. Do you feel safe in your school? What helps you to feel safe? What do the teachers do? What do other staff do?
3. What helps you to feel good about yourself in your school? What do the teachers do? What do other staff do?
4. What do staff say in your school that helps you to understand and feel supported? Are there ways that staff in your school help you to explain how you feel?
5. What does your school do to help support behaviour? What does the teacher do? What do other staff do? Do you feel that staff take the time to try and understand your behaviour and treat you fairly?
6. What happens in your school to help you deal with changes in the day? How would you know that changes were happening? How would you be supported to come into school in the morning?

Prompt 6

Is there anything else you would like to tell me about anything that a school might be doing to support children or young people to help them feel nurtured? How well does your school do in these areas?

Thank you for your help.