



The Beehive Rationale

Why do we have a nurture provision at Wookey Primary School?

Our Philosophy: Inclusion as Belonging

At Wookey Primary School, we pride ourselves on being a fully inclusive setting. We recognise that inclusion is not simply about physical presence in a room; it is about a genuine sense of belonging. Some children face barriers to their wellbeing and learning which can significantly impact their attendance and engagement in a whole class environment. To remove these barriers, some of our children access The Beehive. This is a flexible provision following Somerset's Inclusive Curriculum Model.

The aim of the Beehive is to provide a nurturing small group setting where children can develop psychological safety and secure the strong foundations necessary for long term success across the curriculum. The Beehive is a time limited intervention where the balance between whole-class and small-group learning is tailored for each child.

Securing Strong Foundations

The Inclusive Curriculum is underpinned by three foundations: 'Understanding yourself', 'Understanding others' and 'Understanding the world.' We recognise that before children can achieve academically, they must feel psychologically safe. The Beehive has social and emotional learning at its heart, celebrating each child's unique identity.

Our mission is that no child leaves Wookey without the skills to thrive in their next stages of education. We focus on securing strong foundations enabling them to read fluently, write accurately, communicate effectively, count and calculate. We design and implement our curriculum with educational research at its core. Children have daily deliberate practice in the component parts of each discipline.

Progression in The Beehive

While the following stages outline our strategic direction of travel, the journey through the Beehive is entirely individualised. We recognise that progress is rarely linear; therefore, the transition between these steps is fluid.

Step 1: Identification	Following the Somerset Graduated Response, a child is identified as having persistent barriers to learning. We consult with specialist external agencies to ensure a bespoke environment is the right step to secure the child's psychological safety.
Step 2: Securing Psychological Safety	Children attend the Beehive to develop a sense of belonging and connection with a team of highly skilled, relational adults. The focus is on self-regulation and understanding their own emotions.
Step 3: Social Connection	Children practise socialising with peers through deliberate, low-threat tasks. Using tools like Lego Therapy, Forest School and ELSA informed games, children learn to communicate, share, and collaborate in a high-success, low-stress environment.
Step 4: Secure Foundations	When children are psychologically and socially safe, they will take part in daily deliberate practice of the core areas: Reading, Writing and Number. Small-step success in these component skills builds strong foundations and the child's belief in their own identity as a learner.
Step 5: Relational Re-building	Children build (or re-build) relationships with class teachers and a wider group of their peers. This step focuses on transferring the confidence gained in the Beehive back into a whole-class environment.
Step 6: Supported Re-intergration	Children spend increasing amounts of their timetable in their class, achieving and thriving with the continued support of trusted adults and the use of appropriate, specialised resources. This ensures that the strategies learned in The Beehive are successfully transferred into the whole-class environment.

The Impact of The Beehive

Parent and Child Voice - March 2026

The Children say...

- "In class I used to feel like everyone was staring at me and I couldn't do my work. I don't feel like that now."
- "It is fun, I don't think I would be at school without the Beehive "
- "It is a place where I can just be me."

The Parents say...

- "It has been life-changing; they feel safe and can actually access an education now."
- "The Beehive has brought out my child's humour... they now smile without it being forced."
- "We no longer have battles to get into school; their worries and anxiety have reduced significantly."

Social Connection & Self-Regulation

The Beehive has become a catalyst for deepening friendships and building empathy. Because children now feel psychologically safe, they have developed the capacity to self-regulate, a skill that has transferred from the small group into the wider school community. We have observed:

- Children are actively supporting one another, showing genuine empathy and understanding of their peers' unique needs.
- Children's positive relationships are now visible during unstructured times, such as play and lunch, where Beehive children are engaging more positively with the wider school population.
- Children's ability to self-regulate following a period of dysregulation has increased and the time it takes to calm has significantly reduced.

Attendance

For many of our children, the Beehive has been the deciding factor in their ability to attend school. The data shows a marked improvement in consistency, with average attendance from the cohort has risen by 5.2%.

Behaviour

Analysis of CPOMs data from shows an 83.7% reduction in behavioural incidents since The Beehive was put in place. Crucially, the children are learning to take full responsibility for their actions and proactively repairing the affected relationships – a level of emotional maturity they felt unable to access the previous year.

Attainment

Once psychological safety is secured, academic barriers begin to fall. Our children are now taking immense pride in their learning and completing tasks they previously found impossible to engage with. In just six months, children have made accelerated progress in reading and phonics, with several gaining over a year in reading age.

The Beehive in Three Words - From the voices of children and parents



A word cloud of feedback from children and parents about The Beehive. The words are arranged in a circular pattern, with the most prominent words in the center. The words are: supportive, chill, valued, fun, safe-haven, belonging, creative, necessary, inclusive, welcoming, connections, encouraging, transformative, empowering, safe, and understanding. The word 'understanding' is the largest and most central, followed by 'connections' and 'encouraging'.

supportive
chill valued
cool fun safe-haven
belonging
creative
understanding
safe inclusive necessary
welcoming
transformative
empowering **connections**
encouraging