St. Andrew's CE Junior School

MACAWS Wellbeing Support Provision

Our Vision

Through experiences rooted in Christian Values and through mutual Respect

Mission Statement

These colourful birds are characters, each having different personalities, likes, and dislikes. Macaws can be challenging to care for, but are loyal companions who are worth the time commitment. Macaws also have powerful and impressive beaks, making them a force to be reckoned with during acts of aggression or bouts of hormonal behaviour. Macaws, like all parrots, need social interaction and socialisation where they will quite often find their 'voice'.

The MACAWS (Motivating All Children to Achieve with Support) provision is an invaluable and unique resource at St Andrew's CE Junior School. It can provide a bridge between home and school; a place where children can feel safe and secure to explore their emotional and social wellbeing, learn about themselves, develop and grow. MACAWS bases its foundation on the school's vision and ethos. It also links to our values-based Collective Worship – Roots and Fruits.

The MACAWS room is an essential part of our school's inclusion and PSHE provision and supports the school Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy. Research shows that children's learning is most effective when they have a sense of emotional wellbeing, good self-esteem and a feeling of belonging. The MACAWS room and MACAWS corner provide children with this opportunity, helping to develop resilience and self-awareness in a safe environment.

The foundation of the MACAWS provision is drawn from the understanding that children deal with emotional challenges in their own way, and as such, sometimes need immediate support. Other children may be experiencing other challenges, such as issues related to family and home, or friendship and social issues. Whatever the challenge, MACAWS provides a bespoke provision for all children as and when required, and is aimed at addressing a particular need at that time.

MACAWS sessions

MACAWS operates a referral system and our experienced staff are specifically trained to work with individuals or small groups. We have a Certified School Mental Health Leader, Wellbeing Support Leader and MACAWS Leader, Nurture Group Leaders and a Certified Relax Kids coach. Sessions use activities and resources to motivate, engage and support the children. Children are also taught self-calming techniques on a one-to-one or small group basis.

MACAWS corner is a popular enhancement to our provision. A thoughtfully resourced area located within the library and close to the MACAWS room, offers children a space for quiet reflection, time out and/or sensory engagement. MACAWS corner reflects the whole provision in expertly painted scenes depicting the MACAW in its natural habitat, the Relax Kids rainbow and Roots and Fruits values tree.

The newly established outside MACAWS garden is a dedicated space designed to support wellbeing, outdoor learning, and sensory exploration. It is available for use by all MACAWS participants during scheduled sessions and supervised free time. Activities in the garden may include nature-based play, quiet reflection, group interaction, and seasonal gardening projects. The MACAWS Mental Health Champions, supported by staff are responsible for ensuring the space is used respectfully and safely, with consideration for others and the environment.

Which children attend MACAWS?

Children may attend MACAWS sessions for specific reasons, for example:

- Friendship difficulties – keeping/making friends
- Quiet, shy, withdrawn/ Low self-esteem
- Find it hard to listen to others or join in
- Disruptive behaviours within school
- Poor relationships with adults in school
- Bereavement
- Family illness or break-up
- Children of families working with various Children's Services or Family Support Team
- Reinforcement of positive behaviours through reward

How can MACAWS help my child?

Attending MACAWS will boost confidence and self-esteem and provide children with the emotional support sometimes needed as well as providing skills needed to improve social skills and independence for example:

- To join in
- To settle down and listen
- To develop concentration levels
- To share and take turns
- To build up resilience
- 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.
- Provides essential mental health and wellbeing support in times of crisis

How long will my child be in MACAWS for?

Children will attend MACAWS for as long as support is needed. The MACAWS team and the School Mental Health Leader work closely with class teachers to ensure a smooth and successful

transition back to class after a period of review. Effectiveness is measured through child, staff and, where appropriate, parent voice questionnaires. The MACAWS team meet on a half-termly basis to discuss progress and provision.

MACAWS is fully inclusive and available for all children whenever the need arises. We call these our 'Blue Light Sessions'

MACAWS Team

Headteacher & DSL – Mandy Cornwall

School Mental Health Leader/Relax Kids Coach – Sharon McClelland (SENDCO)

Wellbeing Support Leader & MACAWS Leader– Marie Stafford (Special Educational Needs Teaching Assistant)

RSHE Leader – Sophie Wakefield (Class Teacher)

Please also refer to:

Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy

Safe touch Policy

Safeguarding and Child protection Policy

Anti-Bullying Policy

Restorative Practice & Behaviour Policy.