Meet the weave Early Years Stronger Practice Hub Lead Partners



Donna O'Brien



Rachel Barber

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BEST START IN LIFE

Whitnash Nursery School



Kenilworth Nursery School



Donna O’Brien
Assistant Headteacher | Kenilworth Nursery School
Donna has 20 years’ experience in early years education, having worked across primary schools in Warwickshire, Northampton, Lichfield and Coventry. Forest School trained, she is particularly passionate about outdoor learning and has developed and led Forest School provision in every setting where she has worked.

Rachel Barber
Executive Headteacher | Kenilworth and Whitnash Nursery Schools
Rachel has 20 years’ teaching experience across a range of settings and leadership roles. She is passionate about creating nurturing, inclusive environments where children feel safe, valued and confident to explore, play and learn.

About their settings
Kenilworth and Whitnash are maintained nursery schools offering provision for children aged 2-4, with Kenilworth also extending its provision to children from 12 months through Blueprints. Their approach draws inspiration from Reggio Emilia, placing children’s interests, exploration and individual development at the heart of learning.

Their contribution to Weave
Donna and Rachel are committed to strengthening collaboration across the early years sector, sharing effective practice and creating opportunities for practitioners to learn from one another.

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Delyth Bowen



Sukhy Grewal

Stoke Heath Primary School











Delyth Bowen
Strategic Pastoral Support Lead and Designated Safeguarding Lead | Stoke Heath Primary School
Delyth has over 17 years' experience supporting children and families across education and community settings. With a background in pastoral leadership and family support, she is passionate about early intervention, children's wellbeing and building strong relationships with families.

Sukhy Grewal
Assistant Headteacher | Stoke Heath Primary School
Sukhy has over 20 years' experience in education, including a range of leadership roles. She is particularly passionate about early language and literacy, developing children's communication skills and fostering a love of reading.

About their setting
Stoke Heath Primary School in Coventry supports children from age two through to Year 6. With a strong focus on inclusion, family support and community partnerships, the school is proud to have achieved the ARC Gold Award for trauma-informed practice.

Their contribution to Weave
Delyth and Sukhy bring expertise in early intervention, family support, curriculum development and early literacy, helping practitioners share effective practice and strengthen outcomes for children.

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Grace Shergold



Louise Goodall

Atherstone Nursery School and Bedworth Heath Nursery School











Grace Shergold & Louise Goodall
Co-Executive Headteachers | Atherstone Nursery School and Bedworth Heath Nursery School

Grace and Louise bring a combined 36 years of experience in education and early years.
Grace has worked as a teacher, EYFS Phase Leader, Nursery Lead Teacher and Head of Nursery School. She holds qualifications in education, psychology and early years teaching.
Louise has 23 years' experience, progressing through teaching and leadership roles, including EYFS Phase Leader and Head of Nursery School. She holds a BA (Hons) in Primary Education with Qualified Teacher Status.

About their settings
Atherstone and Bedworth Heath form a federation of two maintained nursery schools in Warwickshire, offering provision for two- and three-year-olds alongside SEND support.
Their carefully sequenced curriculum combines early mathematics and phonics with Forest School, allotment and craft activities. Both settings place particular emphasis on creating inspiring learning environments that encourage curiosity, exploration and independence.

Their contribution to Weave
Grace and Louise are passionate about sharing effective early years practice, supporting professional collaboration and helping practitioners create engaging, inclusive learning environments that respond to children's interests and developmental needs.

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Paula Webster

Paula Webster
Childminder | Working alongside Jessica Webster

Paula has 21 years' experience as a childminder and holds a Level 3 Diploma for the Children's Workforce (Early Years Educator).

She is passionate about creating a nurturing environment where children feel happy, secure and valued. Paula believes in encouraging independence, self-expression and confidence while helping children develop kindness, respect and an understanding of boundaries.

About her setting
Paula works alongside her daughter, Jessica, providing a warm, welcoming, home-from-home childminding environment.
Their family-centred approach focuses on building strong relationships with children and their families, giving children opportunities to play, explore, make choices and develop at their own pace.

Her contribution to Weave
Paula is enthusiastic about connecting with other early years practitioners, sharing experiences and learning from different approaches. Through WEAVE, she looks forward to exchanging ideas, celebrating good practice and contributing a childminder's perspective to the wider early years community.

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Stacey Coulter

Little Willows Pre-School







Stacey Coulter
Manager | Little Willows Pre-School

Stacey has over 25 years' experience in early years education, working across schools, nurseries and pre-schools in roles including teacher, SENCo and manager.

She holds a BEd (Hons) and a master's degree in Integrated Working with Children and their Families. Passionate about SEND, inclusion and communication and language, Stacey is committed to championing children with additional needs and supporting their families.

About her setting
Little Willows Pre-School is a term-time setting in Warwickshire, providing early education for children aged 2-4. The setting has strong links with its local community and specialist services, with SEND and inclusion at the heart of its practice. It has achieved the Warwickshire Gold Standard WIncKS accreditation and provides a dedicated sensory space for children with additional needs.

Her contribution to Weave
Stacey is enthusiastic about bringing practitioners together to share ideas, strengthen inclusive practice and help every child reach their potential.

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Emily Colborne

Nurture Families







Emily Colborne
Operational Lead | Nurture Families CIC

Emily has been Operational Lead at Nurture Families since 2022, supporting initiatives focused on infant and early childhood development, mental health and wellbeing.

She is passionate about outdoor learning, child-centred approaches and the importance of nurturing relationships. Emily believes that placing connection and community at the heart of early years practice helps children and families thrive.

About her setting
Nurture Kindergarten is based at The Fold in Worcester, offering specialist care for babies aged 0-2 and an outdoor forest kindergarten for children aged 2-5.
Its nature-based approach encourages exploration, confidence and independence, while its strong emphasis on relationships helps children feel safe, supported and understood.

Her contribution to Weave
Emily is particularly excited about bringing together practitioners from diverse settings to share experiences, promote equity and inclusion, and build a collaborative community of early years professionals.