

Salendine Nook High School (Academy)

Mental Health Policy (Non-Statutory)

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POLICY STATEMENT

At our school, we are committed to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of our students and staff.

Our culture is supportive, caring, and respectful. We encourage students to be open and we want each student to have their voice heard.

At our school, we know that everyone experiences different life challenges, and that each of us may need help to cope with them sometimes. We understand that anyone and everyone may need additional emotional support. At our school, positive mental health is everybody's responsibility. We all have a role to play.

POLICY SCOPE

This policy is a guide to all staff, including teachers, governors, and non-teaching staff. It outlines our approach to promoting mental health and wellbeing. It should be read and understood alongside our other relevant school policies such as Safeguarding, First Aid.

POLICY AIMS

The aim of our policy is to demonstrate our commitment to the mental health of our staff and students.

At our school, we will always:

- Help children to understand their emotions and experiences better.
- Ensure our students feel comfortable sharing any concerns and worries.
- Help children to form and maintain relationships.
- Encourage children to be confident and help to promote their self-esteem.
- Help children to develop resilience and ways of coping with setbacks.

We will always promote a healthy environment by:

- Promoting positive mental health and emotional wellbeing in all students and staff.
- Celebrating both academic and non-academic achievements.
- Promoting our school values and encouraging a sense of belonging and community.
- Providing opportunities to develop a sense of worth and to reflect.
- Promoting our students' voices and giving them the opportunity to participate in decision making.
- Celebrating each student for who they are and making every student feel valued and respected.
- Adopting a whole school approach to mental health and providing support to any student that needs it.
- Raising awareness amongst staff and students about mental health issues and their signs and symptoms.
- Enabling staff to respond to early warning signs of mental-ill health in students.
- Supporting staff who are struggling with their mental health.

KEY STAFF MEMBERS

All staff members have a responsibility to promote the mental health of students and each other. However, certain staff members have a specific role in the process. These are:

- Our Designated Safeguarding Officers: Mrs S Johnson & Mrs S Wilson
- Pastoral Mentors: Miss R Hunte, Miss A Parojcic & Miss Gill
- SENCO: Mrs S Hampshaw
- Pastoral Team

If a member of staff is concerned about the mental health and wellbeing of a student, then in the first instance they should speak to the relevant Head of Year or Student Support Manager. If staff are concerned for their own mental health they should speak to their line manager or a member of the Staff Well-Being Committee.

If a child presents a medical emergency then relevant procedures will be followed, including involving the emergency services.

TEACHING ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH

Our PME curriculum is developed to give students the skills, knowledge, and understanding they need to keep themselves mentally healthy. This includes resilience techniques and training.

We will regularly review our PME curriculum and lesson content to ensure that they are meeting the aims outlined in this policy. We'll also implement this into our curriculum at all stages to provide students with strategies to help keep them mentally well.

SUPPORT AT SCHOOL AND IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

We have a range of support available in school for any students struggling, as listed below:

Support	How accessed	Aim of support	Targeted Support
Form tutor	Self-referral Member of staff	Discussion available every morning for students to be able to discuss any issues	1-1 Group work
Student Support Manager	Self-referral Parental Staff	To ensure all students within the year group are supported in regards to emotional well-being & any other school related issues	Light touch support 1-1 mentoring
HoY	SSM Parental	To ensure all students within the year group are supported in regards to emotional well-being & any other school related issues	1-1 mentoring
Peer mentoring	SSM HoY	Peer mentoring programme delivered by KS4 students to specific KS students	1-1 peer intervention

Diversity group	Self-referral	To provide support & a safe space for LGBTQ+ students & allies	Available to all year groups
SLT	HoY	To ensure all students within the year group are supported in regards to emotional well-being & any other school related issues	1-1 mentoring
Huddersfield Town Foundation – Steps to Success	SSM HoY	To provide support to students in Year 7-10 with a wide range of issues	1-1 or group intervention based on need
NCS	HoY	To provide targeted support for Year 11 students around emotional well-being & mental health	Group intervention
Pastoral Mentor	HoY	To provide targeted support regarding emotional well-being	1-1 mentoring Targeted group intervention Well-being drop-in sessions
Locala	See links below ¹	To meet the health needs of young people	1-1 mentoring
Mental Health Support Team	SSM HoY Pastoral Mentor	To provide evidence-based interventions for mild to moderate emotional well-being needs	Staff training Parent workshops 1-1 mentoring Group intervention
Northorpe Hall	See links below ¹	To access support for persistent & significant mental health issues via ChEWS & CAMHS	1-1 intervention Group intervention

There is also a lot of support networks available for children in the local community. This includes places such as:

- The Base ² for drug and alcohol support service for people up to 21yrs old and support for parents and carers. They also have a Hidden Harm Project providing support for young people who have concerns about parent /carers struggling with drug/alcohol issues.
- The Brunswick Centre ³ offers support to LGBTQ+ young people, parents & carers.

LINKS

<https://www.thrivingkirklees.org.uk/referral-form/>

<https://www.changegrowlive.org/the-base-kirklees/referrals>

<https://www.thebrunswickcentre.org.uk/services/youth-services>

SIGNPOSTING

We will ensure that all staff, students, and parents are aware of the support that's available in our school for mental health. This includes how to access further support, both inside and outside of school hours.

IDENTIFYING NEEDS AND WARNING SIGNS

Key staff have been trained in Mental Health First Aid and are able to recognise warning signs of common mental health problems. This means that they will be able to offer help and support to students who need it, when they need it.

These warning signs will always be taken seriously and staff who notice any of these signs will communicate their concerns with the Designated Safeguarding Officer as appropriate.

Staff will be able to identify a range of behaviour and physical changes, including:

- Physical signs of harm.
- Changes in eating and sleeping habits.
- Increased isolation from friends and family and becoming socially withdrawn.
- Changes in mood.
- Talking and/or joking about self-harm and/or suicide.
- Drug and alcohol abuse.
- Feelings of failure, uselessness, and loss of hope.
- Secretive behaviour.
- Clothing unsuitable for the time of year, e.g. a large winter coat in summer.
- Negative behaviour patterns, e.g. disruption.

Staff will also be able to identify a range of issues, including:

- Attendance and absenteeism.
- Punctuality and lateness.
- Changes in educational attainment and attitude towards education.
- Family and relationship problems.

Finally, staff will be well placed to identify any additional needs arising from difficulties that may impact a child's mental health and wellbeing, such as bereavement and health difficulties.

MANAGING DISCLOSURES

If a student discloses concerns about themselves or a friend, to any member of staff, then all staff will respond in a calm, supportive, and non-judgmental manner.

All disclosures will be recorded confidentially and only shared with the appropriate authorities if it's necessary to keep the child safe, in line with our Safeguarding Policy.

The disclosure record will contain:

The date of the disclosure.

- The name of the staff member to whom the disclosure was made.
- The nature of the disclosure and the main points from the conversation.
- Agreed next steps.

CONFIDENTIALITY

If a member of staff thinks it's necessary to pass on concerns about a student, either to somebody inside the school or somebody outside it, then this will first be discussed with the student. They will be told:

- Who the staff member is going to tell.
- What the staff member is going to disclose.
- Why it's necessary for somebody else to be told.
- When the contact will be.

However, it may not be possible to gain the student's consent first, such as in the case of students who are at immediate risk. Protecting a student's safety is our main priority so we would share disclosures if we judged a child to be at risk.

WHOLE SCHOOL APPROACH

We take a whole school approach towards the mental health of our students. This means working with parents and carers and with other agencies and partners, where necessary.

WORKING WITH PARENTS AND CARERS

We aim to support parents as much as possible. This means keeping them informed about their child and offering our support at all times. To support parents, we will:

- Highlight sources of information and support about mental health and emotional wellbeing that we have in our school.
- Share and allow parents to access further support.
- Ensure that parents are aware of who to talk to if they have any concerns about their child.
- Give parents guidance about how they can support their child's/children's positive mental health.
- Ensure this policy is easily accessible to parents.
- Keep parents informed about the mental health training our school staff receive and how mental health is covered in our school curriculum.

WORKING WITH OTHER AGENCIES AND PARTNERS

As part of our whole school approach, we will also work with other agencies to support our students' emotional health and wellbeing. This might include liaising with:

- The school nurse and/or welfare officer;
- Pediatricians;
- CAMHS;
- Counselling services;
- Therapists;
- Family support workers;
- Behavioural support workers;

SUPPORTING PEERS

We understand that, when a student is suffering from mental health issues, it can be a difficult time for their peers. In response to this, we will consider, on a case by case basis, any peers that may need additional support.

We will provide support in a one-on-one or group setting. These sessions will be guided by the student, but they will discuss how peers can help, how peers can access support themselves, and healthy ways of coping with any emotions they might be feeling.

TRAINING

All staff will receive training in child mental health so that they can recognise and respond to mental health issues. This will form part of their regular safeguarding training and is a requirement to keep children safe.

We will post all relevant information, and additional information, on our school website so staff can learn more about child mental health. We will consider additional training opportunities for staff and we will support additional CPD throughout the year where it becomes appropriate due to developing situations with pupils.

POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed every year. This is so that it remains up to date, useful, and relevant. We will also regularly review it in accordance with local and national policy changes.