

Pupil Emotional Health and Wellbeing policy

Holmer C E Academy

Policy Number : 124



“ You are the salt of the earth, you are the light of the world.” Matthew 5:13 – 15”

Inspiring us all to create a better world

Approved by	Governing Body
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Pupil Wellbeing Policy

The aims of the policy are to:

- describe Holmer Academy's approach to emotional wellbeing and mental health
- increase understanding and awareness of mental health so as to facilitate early intervention when a pupils mental health needs support
- alert staff to warning signs and risk factors, provide support and guidance to all staff, including non-teaching staff and governors,
- dealing with pupils who suffer from mental health issues
- provide support to pupils who suffer from mental health issues, their peers and parents/carers.

Holmer's approach to mental health:

The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines mental health as '*a state of wellbeing in which the individual realises his or her abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to his or her community.*' This directly links with our school vision in supporting pupils to recognise their unique gifts and apply them in their everyday life, local and wider community successfully with love and tolerance. Full details of how we approach mental health wellbeing are in our mental health strategy document.

Emotional health and wellbeing promotes school improvement and success in a various ways:

- Pupils are happy and engaged with their learning
- Pupils and staff have high esteem and resilience
- Improved standards in every subject
- Effective teaching
- Improved behaviour
- Improved attendance for staff and pupils
- Positive respectful relationships between pupils and staff

Lead members of staff

- DSL and Deputy DSLs - Jayne Maund, Anna Keating, Rachel Anderson, Zoe Jackson, Katie Thomas
- Mental health leads (Jayne Maund Rachel Anderson)
- Mental health first aiders (Jayne Maund Rachel Anderson)
- SENDCo (Lisa Harding)
- Staff wellbeing leads (Jayne Maund and Rachel Anderson)

Pupil Identification

Our aim is to help develop the protective factors which build resilience to poor mental health and to be a school where:

- All children are valued.
- Children have a sense of belonging and feel safe.
- Children feel able to talk openly with trusted adults about their problems without feeling any stigma.
- Positive mental health is promoted and valued.
- Bullying is not tolerated.
- PSHE is taught regularly and consistently and gives children opportunities to understand emotions, feelings and learn key skills in how to keep themselves physically and mentally healthy.

Any member of staff who is concerned about the mental health or wellbeing of a child should speak to the relevant DSLs as per our Mental Health and Well Being Strategy.

Warning Signs

School staff may become aware of warning signs which indicate a pupil is experiencing poor mental health or wellbeing. These warning signs should always be taken seriously and staff observing any of these warning signs should communicate their concerns immediately.

Possible warning signs include: (this is not an exhaustive list)

- Physical signs of harm that are repeated or appear non-accidental
- Changes in eating / sleeping habits
- Increased isolation from friends or family, becoming socially withdrawn
- Changes in activity and mood
- Lowering of academic achievement
- Talking or joking about self-harm or suicide
- Expressing feelings of failure, uselessness or loss of hope
- Changes in clothing - e.g. long sleeves in warm weather
- Secretive behaviour
- Noticeable changes in appearance/behaviour/attitude
- Skipping PE or getting changed secretly
- Lateness to or absence from school
- Repeated physical pain or nausea with no evident cause
- An increase in lateness or absenteeism

Managing disclosures

A student may choose to disclose concerns about themselves or a friend to any member of staff so all staff need to know how to respond appropriately to a disclosure.

If a student chooses to disclose concerns about their own mental health or that of a friend to a member of staff, the member of staff's response should always be calm, supportive and non-judgemental as with any safeguarding concern.

Staff should listen rather than advise and our first thoughts should be of the student's emotional and physical safety rather than of exploring 'Why?'.

If there is a fear that the child is in danger of immediate harm then the normal safeguarding procedures should be followed with an immediate referral to the safeguarding lead or deputies.

If the child presents a medical emergency then the normal procedures for medical emergencies should be followed, including alerting the first aid staff and contacting the emergency services if necessary.

Where a referral to CAMHS is appropriate, this will be led and managed by the DSLs/SENCO.

Curricular and Extra-curricular Support

We support the mental health and wellbeing of all pupils through:

- A strong school ethos which empowers tolerance and respect, including respect for difference and diversity
- Establishing clear rules, routines and expectations about behaviour
- Encouraging positive, caring and constructive relationships
- Having active listeners, including assistants and adults other than school staff to whom a child may turn
- Enhancing school and classroom layout with pupils in mind, facilities and resources, such as our butterfly room
- Recognising the background of individual pupils and their physical, social and emotional needs
- Consistent support for vulnerable children and those with SEND from trained teams of pastoral, learning support, teaching assistants and other agencies where appropriate.
- A balanced curriculum with opportunities for intellectual, physical and expressive development
- Using a range of teaching styles such as Circle Time appropriate to pupils' age, ability and level of maturity.
- Opportunities for pupil leadership through school council, worship leaders, eco club, school prefects and other roles
- Opportunities for reflection and spiritual development through art, literature, worship and the RE curriculum
- Having nurture groups for general wellbeing as well as specific mental health, such as interventions dealing with anxiety or emotions

Working with All Parents

Parents are often very welcoming of support and information from the school about supporting their children's emotional and mental health. In order to support parents, we will:

- Highlight sources of information and support about common mental health issues on our school website
- Ensure that all parents are aware of who to talk to, and how to go about this, if they have concerns about their own child or a friend of their child
- Make our mental health policy easily accessible to parents
- Keep parents informed about the mental health topics their children are learning about in PSHE and share ideas for extending and exploring this learning at home where appropriate

Staff Support

Ways in which staff well being and good mental health is promoted is shown in our staff well being policy.

Training

As a minimum, all staff will receive regular training about recognising and responding to mental health issues as part of their regular child protection safeguarding training to enable them to keep students safe. Training opportunities for staff who require more in depth knowledge will be considered as part of our performance management process and additional CPD will be supported throughout the year where it becomes appropriate due developing situations with one or more students.

Where the need to do so becomes evident, we will host training sessions for all staff to promote learning or understanding about specific issues related to mental health.

Helpful Websites

Young Minds: http://www.youngminds.org.uk/for_parents

Childline: <http://www.childline.org.uk> Mind: <http://www.mind.org.uk/>

NHS: <http://www.nhs.uk/livewell/mentalhealth/Pages/Mentalhealthhome.aspx> Mental Health Foundation: <http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/>

Anna Freud website : <https://www.annafreud.org/>

Heads together : <https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/whole-school-approach/>

5. Links with other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Safeguarding Policy
- Positive Behaviour policy
- Anti Bullying Policy
- E Safety Policy
- School Well Being Strategy

