



Mental Health and Well-being Policy

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1. Why Mental Health and Well-being is Important

Droitwich Spa High School aims to promote the mental health and well-being of its entire school community: students, staff, parents and carers, recognising the importance of mental health and emotional well-being to lives and to learning. Persistent problems in mental health may lead to students making significantly less progress than the majority of those of the same age as well as affecting the quality of their life and relationships. All children go through ups and downs through their school career and some face significant life events. About 10% of children aged 5 to 16 have a diagnosable mental health need.

The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Code of Practice identifies Social, Emotional and Mental Health as one of the four areas of Special Educational Need.

The Department for Education (DfE) recognises that: “in order to help their students succeed; schools have a role to play in supporting them to be resilient and mentally healthy”.

The role of the school is to create an environment where students are equipped with the information and personal resources to meet challenges in the future. It should be a place where young people develop self-esteem within a nurturing and supportive environment. Realistically school will be for some a place of respite from difficult home lives, offering the positive role models and relationships which can promote well-being and a sense of belonging and community.

2. Purpose of the Policy

This policy sets out how the school:

- promotes positive mental health
- works to prevent mental health problems
- identifies and supports students with mental health needs
- trains and support all staff in recognising the early indications of mental health problems

It also provides information about some common mental health problems and indicates where parents, staff and students can get advice and support.

3. Definition of Mental Health and Well-Being

The school uses the World Health Organisation’s 2014 definition of mental health and wellbeing:

“... a state of well-being in which every individual realises his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to her or his community.”

Mental health and well-being are not simply the absence of mental health problems. The aspiration is for all students to:



- feel confident in themselves
- be able to express a range of emotions appropriately
- be able to make and maintain positive relationships with others
- manage times of stress and be able to deal with change
- learn and achieve

4. Links to other Policies

This policy links to our policies on Safeguarding, Looked After Children, Anti-Bullying, Behaviour and Discipline, Personal Social Health Education (PSHE), Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy. Links with the Behaviour and Discipline Policy are especially important because behaviour, whether it is disruptive, withdrawn, anxious, depressed or otherwise, may be related to an unmet mental health need.

5. A Whole School Approach to Promoting Positive Mental Health

The whole school approach to the promotion of positive mental health has six aspects;

1. Creating and embedding an ethos that supports mental health and resilience.
2. Encouraging students to develop positive relationships, support one other and seek help when it is needed.
3. Teaching students social and emotional skills and an awareness of mental health.
4. Early identification of students with mental health needs, providing relevant support both within and beyond the school.
5. Working effectively with parents and carers.
6. Equipping staff with appropriate skills and understanding.

The school seeks to counter the stigma that can hinder understanding of mental health issues by creating an open and positive culture where discussion is encouraged.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

a) The Mental Health Lead;

- Leads on and works with other staff to coordinate whole school activities to promote positive mental health.
- Maintains and updates the school's online Early Help offer including mental health support for students, staff and parents/carers.
- Provides advice and support to staff and organises training and updates.
- Keeps staff up to date with information about what support is available. This is disseminated in whole staff briefing and full staff meetings throughout the academic year.
- Liaises with the PSHE Leader on teaching about mental health.
- is the first point of contact and communicates with mental health services.
- Leads on and makes referrals to external services: CAMHS, Anchor (specifically of LAC and PLAC students), GP, School Nurse, ActOnIt through Onside Advocacy.



b) All Staff

All staff should be alert to the early warning signs of mental health problems and ensure that such students are offered early intervention and continuing support. Among the risk factors that staff should recognise are;

- long-term physical illness,
- a parent who has a mental health problem,
- bereavement,
- loss of friendships,
- family breakdown,
- bullying.

Staff should also appreciate the factors that can counter adversity, such as self-esteem, effective communication, a sense of worth and belonging and emotional literacy.

c) More specialised support within school

Whilst **all** staff have a responsibility to promote positive mental health and to appreciate the relevant protective and risk factors, some students will require more specialised help. This is provided by:

- The school's Mental Health First Aid Team
- The Pastoral support staff
- The Safeguarding/Child Protection Team
- The Looked After Children Mentor
- The SENDCo and relevant LSAs
- School Counsellor / Restorative Interventions Manager

d) External Support

Although many behaviours and emotional problems can be supported within the school environment, certain students will need more intensive support from external professionals. The school makes referrals to;

- Children Missing Education Team.
- Medical Education Team.
- The Chadsgrove Pathway for students who are unable to attend school because of profound mental health or well-being issues.
- The school nursing team
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health service (CAMHs)
- ActOnIt (Onside Advocacy)

7. Supporting Students' Positive Mental Health

Among the measure that promote mental health are;



a) Support with transition to High School ;

- Liaison with key staff at Westacre and Witton Middle Schools, identifying students already presenting mental health and well-being issues, with targeted invitations for tours of the school in addition to the general transition days.
- Individual transition meetings with parent/carers, prospective students and relevant staff.

b) Student-led Activities

- Well-being Council. These students are a link between the student body and the staff.
- Campaigns and assemblies to raise awareness of mental health.

c) Curriculum Activities

- PSHE / RSE curriculum have bespoke resources delivered to all students, differentiated by year group, providing the knowledge and social and emotional skills that will help them to be more resilient, understand mental health and reduce the stigma of mental health problems.
- Assemblies throughout the year address aspects of Mindfulness, Mental Health and Well-being.
- Tutor time activities aim to develop resilience and promote mental health.

d) Whole School Provision includes:

- Around the school there are displays and information about positive mental health and sources support.
- Support for vulnerable students is provided in The Centre at break and lunch time. This includes a therapy dog and trained staff who oversee activities to distract and encourage peer-to-peer social interactions.
- All students, staff and parents /carers have access to an eclectic bank of resources via our website through the school website where the Early Help section supports those seeking advice and information: <https://website.droitwichspahigh.worcs.sch.uk/index.php/mental-health-and-wellbeing-2/>

8. Early Identification

The school seeks to identify mental health needs as early as possible. The school's ways of doing this include;

- Staff having annual Safeguarding training. This includes recognising early signs of mental health and well-being issues, creating a safe place for students to communicate effectively, leading conversations with confidence and how to explore self-help. Furthermore, staff are trained on how to report concerns through CPOMS.
- Staff being Attachment Aware - updates on this theme are delivered in briefings and staff meetings by the Mental health Lead or the SENDCo.
- Identify individuals that might need support and referring them through CPOMS.



- Basic training for reception staff who are often the first point of contact with families seeking support.
- Home / School liaison with students and their families.
- Analysis of attendance, behaviour, exclusions, visits to the medical room.
- student questionnaires.
- gathering information from a previous school at transfer or transition.
- enabling students to raise concerns with class teachers, tutors and support staff.
- encouraging parents and carers to raise concerns.
- drop-ins or organised referrals to the School Nursing team.

9. Staff Training

All staff have or will receive training on the protective and risk factors (see Appendix 1), types of mental health needs (see Appendix 2) and signs that might mean a student is experiencing mental health problems. These signs might include;

- non-verbal behaviour,
- isolation from friends and family and becoming socially withdrawn,
- changes in activity or mood or eating/sleeping habits,
- lowering academic achievement,
- talking or joking about self-harm or suicide,
- expressing feelings of failure, uselessness or loss of hope,
- an increase in lateness or absenteeism,
- not wanting to do PE or get changed for PE,
- drug or alcohol misuse,
- physical signs of harm that are repeated or appear non-accidental,
- wearing long sleeves in hot weather,
- repeated physical pain or nausea with no evident cause.

Any member of staff with such concerns refers the case via CPOMS for triage. At this point the Safeguarding Team, primarily the Senior Mental Health Lead, will follow this up appropriately.

Staff are aware that mental health needs such as anxiety may present as noncompliance, disruption or aggression.

10. Handling Disclosures by Students

a) Verbal Disclosures

It is important it is that staff are calm, supportive and non-judgmental should students verbally disclose a concern about themselves or a friend. Their emotional and physical safety is paramount and initially staff listen rather than advise. It is made clear to students that the concern will be shared with the Safeguarding Team and recorded to decide on the appropriate next step.

b) Non-Verbal Disclosures

In line with the NICE (National Institute for Health & Care Excellence) guidance, staff also appreciate that unusually unsettled or poor behaviour may be an indication of an underlying mental health concern.

c) Confidentiality

All disclosures are recorded on the student's confidential file, with the date, name of student and member of staff to whom they disclosed, summary of the disclosure and next steps.

11. Assessment, Interventions and Support

All concerns are reported to the Safeguarding Team via CPOMS. They are then assessed to ensure that students get appropriate support, either from within the school or from an external specialist service.

Need	Evidence-based Intervention and Support	Monitoring
<p>The level of need is based on discussions with key members of staff</p> <p>Highest Need</p>	<p>The kinds of intervention and support provided will be decided in consultation with key members of staff, parents and students</p> <p>For example, at triage level through CPOMS or a call from parents/carers,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact with Level 4 Team at CAMHS / police / Children's Services if there is a suicide risk • Referral to CAMHS for assessment. • Referral to Childrens Services (where appropriate) or additional Family Support • School Counsellor - 1:1 support • Referral to SEND input. If the school, professionals and/or parents conclude that a statutory education, health and care assessment is required, we refer to the SEND policy and SEN School Information Report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where appropriate, interventions through CAMHS and external agencies tracked by attending meetings (where consent is acquired). Discussion, advice and support in Child and Mental Health Services (CAMHS) core hours for key staff • Risk Assessment and review for the most serious of concerns • Any referrals to external agencies tracked and meetings attended. All records of meetings stored centrally on CPOMS. • An electronic log is kept and there are monthly
<p>Moderate Need</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referral to School Nurse • Referral for WRAPP (Well-being, Resilience and Positivity Programme) through the school nursing team. • Referral to the Blues Programme. • Referral or signposting to Reach4Wellbeing or CAMHS CAST • Referral for School Counselling • Communication with a member of the Mental Health First Aid team / Head of House. 	

		safeguarding team meetings
Low need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of The Centre (Inclusion support) at breaks and lunch • Communication and signposting students and parents to support through the school's website, specifically 'Early Help' Family and Student support. • School counselling (dependent on need) • Communication with the student's tutor and frequent 'check-ins' 	

12. Working with Specialist Services to get swift access to suitable Specialist Support and Treatment

Some cases of mental ill-health require support from a specialist service. These might include anxiety, depression, school refusal or other complex needs. The school has links with a range of specialist services and will make frequent contact with the services to review cases and consider the next steps. School referrals to a specialist service will be made by the Senior Mental Health Lead /Head of House/Safeguarding Team following the assessment process and in consultation with the student and his/her parents or carers. Referrals will only go ahead with the consent of the parent/carer.

13. Support for Parents and Carers

We advertise a range of support both official and voluntary. Staff involved in a case have an Open-Door Policy. When a concern has been raised the school will:

- contact parents and carers and meet them to agree a way forward and discuss how they can support their child.
- offer information to take away and places to seek further information.
- be available for follow up calls.
- make a record of the meeting in CPOMS.
- In the rare event that parents and carers are not accessing services we will seek advice from the Local Authority, particularly from the Family Front Door.

Appendix 1

Protective and Risk factors (adapted from Mental Health and Behaviour DfE March 2016)

	Risk Factors	Protective Factors
In the Child	Genetic influences • Specific development delay • Communication difficulties • Physical illness • Academic failure • Low self-esteem • SEND	Being female (in younger children) • Secure attachment experience • Outgoing temperament as an infant • Good communication skills, sociability • Being a planner and having a belief in control • Humour • Problem solving skills and a positive attitude • Experiences of success and achievement • Faith or spirituality • Capacity to reflect
In the Family	Overt parental conflict including domestic violence • Family breakdown (including where children are taken into care or adopted) • Inconsistent or unclear discipline • Hostile and rejecting relationships • Failure to adapt to a child's changing needs • Physical, sexual, emotional abuse or neglect • Parental psychiatric illness • Parental criminality, alcoholism or personality disorder • Death and loss - including loss of friendship	At least one good parent-child relationship (or one supportive adult) • Affection • Clear, consistent discipline • Support for education • Supportive long-term relationship or the absence of severe discord
In the School	Bullying • Discrimination • Breakdown in or lack of positive friendships • Negative peer influences • Peer pressure • Poor student to teacher relationships	Clear policies on behaviour and bullying • Open door policy for children to raise problems • A whole-school approach to promoting good mental health • Positive classroom management (IQFT) • A sense of belonging • Positive peer influences
In the Community	• Disaster, accidents, war or other overwhelming events • Discrimination • Other significant life events	High standard of living • High morale school with positive policies for behaviour, attitudes and anti-bullying • Opportunities for valued social roles • Range of sport/leisure activities

Appendix 2

a) Specific mental health needs most commonly seen in school-aged children

For information see Annex C Main Types of Mental Health Needs in Mental Health and Behaviour in School DfE March 2016 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mental-health-and-behaviour-inschools--2>

Annex C includes definitions, signs and symptoms and suggested interventions for:

- Anxiety (including panic attacks, phobias and Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD))
- Depression
- Eating Disorders
- Substance Misuse Self Harm

b) Suicidal Thoughts

The DfE guide does not include specific information on suicidal thought . Young people may experience thoughts and feelings about wanting to end their lives. Some young people never act on these feelings but may openly discuss and explore them, while other young people die suddenly from suicide without any apparent warning signs.

Appendix 3

Internal Support: Names and faces



Droitwich Spa High School and Sixth Form Centre takes its responsibilities as a data controller and data processor seriously and are committed to using any personal data collected and held in accordance with the law. The schools policies, privacy notices and forms in relation to personal data are available for you to view on our web site at www.droitwichspahigh.worcs.sch.uk or by using the <https://website.droitwichspahigh.worcs.sch.uk/index.php/communications/information-management-and-data-protection/> The School's Data Protection Officer is the *Governance Manager* who can be contacted at Droitwich Spa High School and Sixth Form Centre, Briar Mill, Droitwich, WR9 0AA or by email at privacy@droitwichspahigh.worcs.sch.uk