

Hogarth Academy



Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Policy

Date of Policy: September 2023
Review frequency: Annually

This policy will be updated annually or more frequently in line with any changes to legislation and guidance.

Policy statement

At Hogarth Academy, we are committed to promoting positive mental health and emotional wellbeing to all pupils, their families and members of staff and governors. Our open culture allows pupils' voices to be heard, and through the use of effective policies and procedures we ensure a safe and supportive environment for all affected - both directly and indirectly - by mental health issues.

Scope

This policy is a guide to all staff – including non-teaching and governors – outlining our approach to promoting mental health and emotional wellbeing.

It should be read in conjunction with other relevant academy policies.

Policy Aims

- ✓ Promote positive mental health and emotional wellbeing in all staff and pupils.
- ✓ Increase understanding and awareness of common mental health issues.
- ✓ Enable staff to identify and respond to early warning signs of mental ill health in pupils.
- ✓ Enable staff to understand how and when to access support when working with young people with mental health issues.
- ✓ Provide the right support to pupils with mental health issues, and know where to signpost them and their parents/carers for specific support.
- ✓ Develop resilience amongst pupils and raise awareness of resilience building techniques.
- ✓ Raise awareness amongst staff and gain recognition from all staff that staff may have mental health issues, and that they are supported in relation to looking after their wellbeing (see Staff wellbeing policy); instilling a culture of staff and pupil welfare where everyone is aware of signs and symptoms with effective signposting underpinned by behaviour and welfare around school.

Key staff members

This policy aims to ensure all staff take responsibility to promote the mental health of pupils, however members of staff have specific roles to play:

Ms Lee – Designated Lead for Mental Health & Wellbeing and DSL

Miss Cooper – Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mr Stewart - SENDCo

All pupils have access to their class teacher on a daily basis; all of which are supported by the pastoral and SLT teams at Hogarth Academy

Mme

If a member of staff is concerned about the mental health or wellbeing of pupil, in the first instance they should speak to the class teacher or DSL or SLT

If there is a concern that the pupil at high risk or in danger of harm, the academy's safeguarding and child protection policy and procedures must be followed, this includes the completion of a referral on MyConcern.

We follow the STORMBREAK mental health programme for schools, a weekly session within class learning time supports all pupils in a variety of styles of activity. www.stormbreak.org.uk/

If the child presents a high risk medical emergency, relevant procedures should be followed, including involving the emergency services if necessary.

Teaching about mental health

The skills, knowledge and understanding our pupils need to keep themselves - and others - physically and mentally

healthy and safe are included as part of our PSHE programme (Jigsaw). The importance of being mentally well is also discussed across the curriculum and is highlighted within our safeguarding curriculum map.

Signposting

We will ensure that staff, pupils and parents/carers are aware of the support and services available to them, and how they can access these services. Within the academy (noticeboards, staffroom, toilets etc.) and through our communication channels (newsletters, websites), we will share and display relevant information about local and national support services and events.

The aim of this is to ensure pupils understand:

- ✓ What help is available
- ✓ Who it is aimed at
- ✓ How to access it

- ✓ Why should they access it
- ✓ What is likely to happen next

What support is available?	Who is it Suitable for?	How is it accessed?	Where can you find Additional information?
Pastoral Support	All pupils	Support can be accessed by speaking to your/your child's class teacher	Additional information about who the achievement team are can be found on the academy website and around the academy
Emotional Health and Wellbeing Team	All pupils	If you feel you/your child would benefit from of early intervention for mild to moderate mental health and emotional wellbeing issues, such as anxiety, low mood, behavioural difficulties or phobias.	Please contact the school.
Nott alone	All pupils	Local mental health advice and help for young people in Nottingham	https://nottalone.org.uk
Kooth	All pupils	Kooth is a free online counselling service. A link to the Kooth website can be found on the academy website.	More information can be obtained in school .
CAMHS	All pupils	CAMHS can be accessed in two ways In a crisis situation –e.g. suicidal thoughts the academy recommends pupils go to A+E, here they will be accessed by CAMHS Through SPOA (Single point of access), this can be completed by academy staff in conjunction with parents and carers.	Please contact our SENDCO CAMHS through the GP.
Educational Psychologist	All pupils	A referral to the Educational Psychologist will come through the Academy's SEND department.	Please contact our SENDCO

Warning Signs

Staff may become aware of warning signs which indicate a pupil is experiencing mental health or emotional wellbeing issues. These warning signs should always be taken seriously and staff observing any of these warning signs should alert (Miss Swan via My Concern).

Possible warning signs, which all staff should be aware of include:

- ✓ 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
- ✓ Skipping PE or getting changed secretly
- ✓ Lateness to, or absence from academy
- ✓ Repeated physical pain or nausea with no evident cause
- ✓ An increase in lateness or absenteeism

Targeted support

We recognise some children and young people are at greater risk of experiencing poorer mental health. For example, those who are in care, young carers, those who have had previous access to CAMHS, those living with parents/carers with a mental illness and those living in households experiencing domestic violence. We work closely with the Mental Health Support Teams in supporting the emotional and mental health needs of academy-aged children and are equipped to work at community, family and individual levels. Their skills cover identifying issues early, determining potential risks and providing early intervention to prevent issues escalating. We ensure timely and effective identification of pupils who would benefit from targeted support and ensure appropriate referral to support services by:

- ✓ Providing specific help for those children most at risk (or already showing signs) of social, emotional, and behavioural problems;
- ✓ Working closely with Nottingham City's Children's Services, CAMHS and other agencies services to follow various protocols including assessment and referral;
- ✓ Identifying and assessing in line with the Behaviour Emotional Mental Health Team, children who are showing early signs of anxiety, emotional distress, or behavioural problems;
- ✓ Discussing options for tackling these problems with the child and their parents/carers.
- ✓ Providing a range of interventions that have been proven to be effective, according to the child's needs;
- ✓ Ensure young people have access to pastoral care and support, as well as specialist services, including CAMHS, so that emotional, social and behavioural problems can be dealt with as soon as they occur;
- ✓ Provide young people with clear and consistent information about the opportunities available for them to discuss personal issues and emotional concerns. Any support offered should take account of local community and education policies and protocols regarding confidentiality;
- ✓ Provide young people with opportunities to build relationships, particularly those who may find it difficult to seek support when they need it

Managing disclosures

If a pupil chooses to disclose concerns about themselves, or a friend, to any member of staff, the response will be calm, supportive and non-judgemental.

All disclosures should be recorded on myconcern without delay.

Confidentiality

The emotional and physical safety of our children is paramount and staff listen rather than advise. Staff make it clear to pupils that the concern will be shared with the Safeguarding Team and recorded, in order to provide appropriate support to the pupil.

Working with parents/carers

We are mindful that for a parent, hearing about their child's issues can be upsetting and distressing. They may therefore respond in various ways which we should be prepared for and allow time for the parent to reflect and come to terms with the situation.

Signposting parents to other sources of information and support can be helpful in these instances. At the end of the phone call/meeting, lines of communication should be kept open should the parents have further questions or concerns. Booking a follow-up meeting or phone call might be beneficial.

Supporting parents

We recognise the family plays a key role in influencing children and young people's emotional health and wellbeing; we will work in partnership with parents and carers to promote emotional health and wellbeing by:

- ✓ Ensuring all parents are aware of and have access to promoting social and emotional wellbeing and preventing mental health problems;
- ✓ Highlighting sources of information and support about common mental health issues through our communication channels (website, newsletters etc.);

- ✓ Offering support to help parents or carers develop their parenting skills. Parents have access to information on the academy website.

Supporting Peers

When a pupil is suffering from mental health issues, it can be a difficult time for their friends who may want to support but do not know how. To keep peers safe, we will consider on a case by case basis which friends may need additional support. Support will be provided in one to one or group settings and will be guided by conversations by the pupil who is suffering and their parents with whom we will discuss:

- ✓ What it is helpful for friends to know and what they should not be told
- ✓ How friends can best support
- ✓ Things friends should avoid doing / saying which may inadvertently cause upset
- ✓ Warning signs that their friend needs help (e.g. signs of relapse)
- ✓ Additionally, we will want to highlight with peers:
- ✓ Where and how to access support for themselves
- ✓ Safe sources of further information about their friend's condition
- ✓ Healthy ways of coping with the difficult emotions they may be feeling

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 training to enable them to keep pupils safe.

Our website will contain relevant information for staff and parents who wish to learn more about mental health.

Training opportunities for staff that 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 pupils.

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

Supporting and promoting the mental health and wellbeing of staff is an essential component of a healthy academy and we promote opportunities to maintain a healthy work life balance and wellbeing, taking part in staff activities and fitness groups. Staff also have access to Employee Assistance Programme where they can access 24/7 support and counselling.

Website Links

[Nottalone](#)
[ChildLine](#)
[Mind](#)
[NSPCC](#)
[Mentally Healthy Schools](#)
[NHS](#)
[Kids Helpline](#)
[Qwell - Online counselling for parents/carers \(Adults\)](#)
[Head Space](#)
[Building Sound Minds](#)
[Hub of Hope](#)
[Anna Freud Centre](#)
[Kooth - Free Online Counselling](#)
[Zumos](#)
[Young Minds](#)