



SUICIDE INTERVENTION POLICY



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Statement of Purpose

This school community is aware that:

- Suicide remains one of the leading causes of death among children and young people. Our school recognises its responsibility to promote emotional wellbeing, identify concerns early, provide appropriate support, and work collaboratively with families and partner agencies to reduce the risk of suicide and self-harm
- We play a vital role in helping to prevent young suicide.
- We want to make sure that children and young people at our school are as suicide “safe as possible” and that our governors, parents and carers, teaching staff, support staff, pupils themselves and other key stakeholders are aware of our commitment to be a suicide-safe school.

Legislative and Guidance Framework

This policy should be read alongside:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2026
- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Education Act 2002
- Equality Act 2010
- Mental Capacity Act 2005 (where relevant)
- NICE Guideline NG225: Self-harm Assessment, Management and Preventing Recurrence
- Suicide Prevention Strategy for England 2023 to 2028
- Local Safeguarding Partnership procedures

Underlying Principles

This school community is aware that:

1. Improve connectedness. A child or young person who is contemplating suicide may not feel able to access the support of those around them. This may be because of fear, perceived rejection, a sense of shame or embarrassment, or because they fear that they may need to share whatever is causing their thoughts of suicide. They may find this difficult to open up about.
2. It is important to provide safe spaces and alternative opportunities for school children to share their story. It is important to use language that protects and provides safety and to cultivate an environment where nothing is so secret that it can't be shared.
3. Reduce access to means. It is important to ensure that the physical environment of our school is as safe as possible. The removal of potential ligature points, restricting access to places which facilitate jumping. Making sure classroom items such as

scissors/compasses/pencil sharpeners* (*please be aware that pencil sharpeners have in some cases reported as having been tampered with and blades accessed and shared for self-harm) are monitored when in use and safely secured when not in use. Also the removal of harmful substances from public areas. All these are considerations of how to reduce access to potential means of suicide, this will form part of any health & safety risk assessment.

Our school will adopt the three underlying principles of **SEE-SAY-SIGNPOST**. The DSL, Deputy DSLs and relevant pastoral staff will receive regular suicide prevention, self-harm, mental health and safeguarding training. Training will be reviewed at least annually and in response to updates in statutory guidance.

Our Beliefs about Suicide and its Antecedents

This school acknowledges that:

1. Suicidal thoughts are common
2. We acknowledge that thoughts of suicide are common among young people.
3. Suicide is complex
4. We believe that every suicide is a tragedy. There are a number of contributory factors surrounding a suicide and the reasons are often complex and individual to that person. However, we believe that there are lessons that may be learned from each death that may help prevent future deaths.
5. Stigma inhibits learning-stigma can kill. We recognise that the stigma surrounding suicide and mental illness can be both a barrier to help seeking and a barrier to offering help.
6. This school is committed to tackling suicide stigma. In our language and in our working relationships, we will promote open, sensitive talk that does not stigmatise and perpetuate taboos. This will include avoiding the use of language which perpetuates unhelpful notions that suicide is criminal, sinful or selfish.
7. We know that unhelpful myths and misconceptions surrounding suicide can inhibit young people in seeking and finding appropriate help when it is most needed.

PREVENTION

Suicide Intervention is our Business too:

1. As a school community, we recognise that pupils may seek out someone whom they trust with their concerns and worries. We want to play our part in supporting any pupil who may have thoughts of suicide.
2. Safety is very important-We know that pupils who are having thoughts of suicide may or may not also be behaving in a way that puts their life in danger (suicide behaviours). Schoolchildren experiencing suicidal thoughts are potentially at risk of acting on these thoughts.
3. Those who are already engaging in suicide behaviours are also clearly at risk of death or harm. This school wants to work with our pupils who may be thinking about suicide, or acting on their thoughts of suicide.

4. We want to support them, sometimes working in partnership with family, caregivers and other professionals where this may enhance suicide safety.
5. Suicide is a difficult thing to talk about. We know that a child or young person who is suicidal may find it very difficult to make their feelings known and speak openly about suicide. We will equip adults with the skills to identify when a pupil may be struggling with thoughts of suicide. These adults will be trained to keep our young people suicide-safe "as is possible".
6. Talking about suicide does not create or worsen risk. We will provide our pupils with opportunities to speak openly about their worries with people who are ready, willing and able to support them. We want to make it possible for school children and young people, and those who support them at this school, to do so safely.
7. This will be in a way that leads to support and help where this is needed. We will do all we can to refrain from acting in a way that stops a pupil seeking the help they need when they are struggling with thoughts of suicide.
8. The school recognises that exposure to harmful online content may contribute to suicidal ideation and self-harm behaviours. Staff will remain vigilant to:
 - Suicide and self-harm content.
 - Pro-suicide forums.
 - Online bullying.
 - Harmful challenges.
 - Content encouraging self-injury.

Concerns will be addressed through safeguarding procedures and online safety education.

9. This school recognises that suicide bereavement has been described as "grief with the volume turned up" the effects on families, communities and society as a whole are devastating and tragic. This school will support in any way we can and the link below will be signposted as appropriate
http://www.petesdragons.org.uk/Bereavement_Support_2369.aspx

Responding to Suicidal Ideation

Where a pupil expresses suicidal thoughts, staff will:

- Remain calm and listen without judgement.
- Take all disclosures seriously.
- Never promise confidentiality.
- Inform the DSL immediately.
- Record concerns factually on the school's safeguarding system.
- Work with parents/carers unless doing so would increase risk.
- Seek emergency assistance where there is immediate danger.

- Develop a support and safety plan with relevant professionals.

Any disclosure of suicidal ideation, suicide planning, suicide attempt, or significant self-harm must be treated as a safeguarding concern and responded to in accordance with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will determine whether referral to Children's Social Care, CAMHS, emergency services or other appropriate agencies is required.

Our Team and its Responsibilities

1. Our governors and leadership team at this school will be clear about how we will respond in the event of a suicide. Each member of our named Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) will have a defined responsibility within our plan including leadership, family liaison and any communications with external agencies, including the media. This commitment and reporting for assistance from outside agencies, when needed, will go hand in hand with our main Child Protection & Safeguarding in School Policies.
2. We will have a clear picture of who has received general suicide awareness education and commit to this being refreshed periodically. This team will be drawn from across the whole school community, not just from one department.
3. We will have a clear policy about how staff should work together where thoughts of suicide or suicide behaviours are known among our young people. We will manage the sharing of information in a way that enhances safety.

Routes for support

- GP
- CAMHS
- Mental Health Support Teams
- Educational Psychology
- School counselling services
- NHS 111 Mental Health
- Emergency Services (999)
- Shout (85258)
- Papyrus HOPELINE247

Ongoing Support and Development of our Policy and Practice

Our Governors and Leadership Team at this school will keep our practice up to date by maintaining contact with best practice and on-going training.

