



THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL

Learning Together for the Future

Mental Health and Wellbeing

February 2025

This policy is by the Student and Curriculum Governors Sub-Committee

This policy will be reviewed annually

This is a non-statutory policy

1.Statement of intent

This policy outlines the framework for **The Ecclesbourne School** to meet its duty in providing and ensuring a high quality of education to all of its pupils, including students with Mental Health and Well-Being (MHWB) difficulties, and to do everything it can to meet the needs of students with MHWB difficulties.

Through successful implementation of this policy, the school aims to:

- Promote a positive outlook regarding students MHWB difficulties.
- Eliminate prejudice towards students with MHWB difficulties.
- Promote equal opportunities for students with MHWB difficulties.
- Ensure all cases of students with MHWB difficulties are identified and appropriately supported.

The Ecclesbourne School will work with outside agencies where the following principles are concerned:

- The involvement of students and their parents in decision-making.
- The early identification of students' needs.
- Collaboration between education, health and social care services to provide support when required by the student.
- Greater choice and control for students and their parents over their support.

2.Legal framework

This policy has due regard to legislation, including the following:

- Children and Families Act 2014
- Health and Social Care Act 2012
- Equality Act 2010
- Education Act 2002, 2006 s175/s157
- Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Children Act 1989
- Children Act 2004
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024
- Working together to Safeguard Children 2024

This policy has been created with regard to the following DfE guidance:

- DfE (2016) 'Counselling in schools: a blueprint for the future'
- DfE (2015) 'Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) code of practice: 0 to 25'
- DfE (2017) 'Transforming Children and Young People's Mental Health Provision: A Green Paper.'
- DfE (Nov 2018) Mental Health and Behaviour in Schools.

2.1 This policy also has due regard to the school's policies, including, but not limited to, the following:

- SEND Policy
- Behaviour and Discipline Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy

- Self-Harm Policy
- Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (DEI)

3. Definitions

- **Anxiety:** For the purpose of this policy, anxiety refers to feeling fearful or panicky, breathless, tense, fidgety, sick irritable, tearful or having difficulty sleeping. Anxiety can significantly affect a pupil's ability to develop, learn or sustain and maintain friendships. Specialists reference a number of diagnostic categories:
- **Generalised anxiety disorder:** a long-term condition which causes people to feel anxious about a wide range of situations and issues, rather than one specific event.
- **Panic disorder:** a condition in which people have recurring and regular panic attacks, often for no obvious reason.
- **Obsessive-compulsive disorder:** a mental health condition where a person has obsessive thoughts (unwanted, unpleasant thoughts, images or urges that repeatedly enter their mind, causing them anxiety) and compulsions (repetitive behaviour or mental acts that they feel they must carry out to try to prevent an obsession coming true).
- **Specific phobias:** the excessive fear of an object or a situation, to the extent that it causes an anxious response, such as a panic attack (e.g. school phobia).
- **Separation anxiety disorder:** involves worrying about being away from home or about being far away from parents, at a level that is much more than normal for a student's age.
- **Social phobia:** an intense fear of social or performance situations.
- **Agoraphobia:** refers to a fear of being in situations where escape might be difficult, or help wouldn't be available if things go wrong.

Depression: For the purpose of this policy, depression refers to feeling excessively low or sad. Depression can significantly affect a student's ability to develop, learn or maintain and sustain friendships. Depression can often lead to other issues such as behavioural problems. Generally, a diagnosis of depression will refer to one of the following:

- **Major depressive disorder (MDD):** a person who will show a number of depressive symptoms to the extent that they impair work, social or personal functioning.
- **Dysthymic disorder:** is less severe than MDD, but characterised by a person experiencing a daily depressed mood for at least two years.

Hyperkinetic disorders: For the purpose of this policy, hyperkinetic disorders refer to a student who is excessively easily distracted, impulsive or inattentive. If a student is diagnosed with a hyperkinetic disorder, it will be one of the following:

- **Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD):** has three characteristic types of behaviour; inattention, hyperactivity and impulsivity. While some children show the signs of all three characteristics, which is then called 'combined type ADHD', other children diagnosed show signs of only inattention, hyperactivity or impulsiveness.
- **Hyperkinetic disorder:** a more restrictive diagnosis but is broadly similar to a severe combined type ADHD, in that signs of inattention, hyperactivity and impulsiveness must all be present. The core symptoms must also have been present from before the age of seven, and must be evident in two or more settings, e.g. at school or home.

Attachment disorders: For the purpose of this policy, attachment disorders refer to the excessive upset experienced when a child is separated from a special person in their life, like a parent. Researchers generally agree that there are four main factors that influence attachment problems, these are:

- Opportunity to establish a close relationship with a primary caregiver.
- The quality of caregiving.
- The child's characteristics.

- Family context.

Eating disorders: For the purpose of this policy, eating disorders are defined as a serious mental illness which affects an individual's relationship with food. Eating disorders often emerge when worries about weight begin to dominate a person's life.

Substance misuse: For the purpose of this policy, substance misuse is defined as the usage of harmful substances.

Deliberate self-harm: For the purpose of this policy, deliberate self-harm is defined as a person intentionally inflicting physical pain upon themselves.

Post-traumatic stress: For the purpose of this policy, post-traumatic stress is defined as recurring trauma due to experiencing or witnessing something deeply shocking or disturbing. If symptoms persist, a person can develop post-traumatic stress disorder.

4.Roles and responsibilities

4.1 The Governing Body is responsible for:

- Strategic oversight of the implementation and effectiveness of the MHWB Policy.
- Appointing an individual governor to oversee the school's arrangements for Safeguarding and Mental Health and Wellbeing. This is currently Huw Lloyd and Simon Black.

4.1 The Headteacher is responsible for:

- Designating an appropriate member of staff to be the Mental Health Lead and have responsibility for coordinating provision for students with MHWB difficulties.
- Ensuring that teachers monitor and review students' progress during the course of the academic year.
- Ensuring that procedures and policies for the day-to-day running of the school do not directly or indirectly discriminate against students with MHWB difficulties.
- Establishing and maintaining a culture of high expectations and including students with MHWB difficulties in all opportunities that are available to other students.

4.2 The Mental Health Lead is responsible for:

- Overseeing the whole-school approach to Mental Health, including how this is reflected in policies, the curriculum and pastoral support, how staff are supported with their own mental health, and how the school engages students and parents with students' MHWB and awareness.
- Collaborating with the PLT, The PDC coordinator and Governing Body, as part of the school's leadership team (SLT), to outline and strategically develop MHWB policies and provisions for the school.
- Coordinating with the SENDCO and MHWB support teams to provide a high standard of care to students who have MHWB difficulties.
- Advising on the deployment of the school's budget and other resources to effectively meet the needs of students with MHWB difficulties.
- In collaboration with the DSL, PLT, Pastoral Support Worker and SENCO referring students with MHWB difficulties to external services to receive external support, where required.
- In collaboration with PLT ensuring contact with external agencies, especially the MHWB support services, LA support services and MHWB support teams is recorded on My Concern.
- Ensuring that those teaching or working with students with MHWB difficulties are aware of their needs and have arrangements in place to meet them.
- Keeping parents and relevant teaching staff up to date with any changes or concerns involving students with MHWB difficulties.

- Providing professional guidance to colleagues about MHWB and working closely with staff members, parents and other agencies, including MHWB charities.
- Overseeing the outcomes of interventions on students' education and wellbeing.
- In collaboration with the DSL, PLT, Pastoral Support Worker and SENCO liaising with parents of students with MHWB difficulties, where appropriate.
- In collaboration with the DSL, PLT, Pastoral Support Worker and SENCO Liaising with other schools, educational psychologists, health and social care professionals, and independent or voluntary bodies.
- Inviting students and parents who successfully recover from mental health issues or who manage effectively to talk at assemblies or PDC to share success and inspire others.
- Leading MHWB CPD.

4.3 The DSL is responsible for:

- Working in collaboration with the Mental Health Lead.
- Responding appropriately when a mental health issue becomes a safeguarding issue. See Child Protection and Safeguarding policy and the Self-Harm Policy

4.4 The SENDCO is responsible for:

- Collaborating with the Mental Health Lead to determine the strategic development of MHWB policies and provisions in the school.
- Undertaking day-to-day responsibilities for the successful operation of the MHWB Policy with SEND students.

4.5 The PLT Staff are responsible for:

- Being aware of the signs of MHWB difficulties.
- Undertaking MHWB First Aider training.
- Planning and reviewing support for their students with MHWB difficulties in collaboration with The Mental Health Well Being Lead, the SENDCO and, where appropriate, the pupils themselves.
- Being responsible and accountable for the progress and development of the students in their year group.
- Being aware of the needs, outcomes sought, and support provided to any students with MHWB difficulties.
- Informing the Mental Health Well Being Lead, PLT and if a Safeguarding issue directly to the DSL or deputy DSL's of causes and concerns identified through their work with students.

4.6 The Teaching staff are responsible for:

- Being aware of the signs of MHWB difficulties.
- Planning and reviewing support for their students with MHWB difficulties in collaboration with The Mental Health Well Being Lead, the DSL, the SENDCO and, where appropriate, the students themselves.
- Setting high expectations for every student and aiming to teach them the full curriculum, whatever their prior attainment.
- Planning lessons to address potential areas of difficulty to ensure that there are no barriers to every student achieving.
- Being responsible and accountable for the progress and development of the students in their class.
- Being aware of the needs, outcomes sought, and support provided to any student with MHWB difficulties.

- Informing the responsible member of the Pastoral Team of causes and concerns identified through their work with students.

5 Training to enable Teachers and Support Staff to identify signs of MHWB.

- Awareness of factors that put students at risk of MHWB difficulties, such as low self-esteem, physical illnesses, academic difficulties and family problems.
- Awareness of the fact that risks are cumulative and that exposure to multiple risk factors can increase the risk of MHWB difficulties.
- Understanding that familial loss or separation, significant changes in a student's life or traumatic events are likely to cause MHWB difficulties.
- Understanding what indicators, they should be aware of that may point to MHWB difficulties, such as behavioural problems, distancing from other students or changes in attitude.
- Understanding that MHWB difficulties may lead to a student's developing SEND, which could further result in a student requiring an EHCP plan.
- An effective pastoral system will be in place so that at least **one** member of staff, a **form tutor** for example, knows every student well and can spot where bad or unusual behaviour may need investigating and addressing.
- Understanding that some groups of students are more vulnerable to mental health difficulties than others. These include, but are not limited to, LAC, pupils with SEND and pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Awareness of the signs that may indicate if a student is struggling with their MHWB. The signs of MHWB difficulties may include, but are not limited to, the following list:
 - Anxiety
 - Low mood
 - Being withdrawn
 - Avoiding risks
 - Unable to make choices
 - Low self-worth
 - Isolating themselves
 - Refusing to accept praise
 - Failure to engage
 - Poor personal presentation
 - Lethargy/apathy
 - Daydreaming
 - Unable to make and maintain friendships
 - Speech anxiety/reluctance to speak
 - Task avoidance
 - Challenging behaviour
 - Restlessness/over-activity
 - Non-compliance
 - Mood swings
 - Impulsivity
 - Physical aggression
 - Verbal aggression
 - Perceived injustices
 - Disproportionate reactions to situations
 - Difficulties with change/transitions
 - Absconding
 - Eating issues
 - Lack of empathy

- Lack of personal boundaries
- Poor awareness of personal space

6 Assessment

The Ecclesbourne School is committed to early identification of students with MHWB difficulties.

An ALGEE (**A**pproach, **a**ssess, **a**ssist. **L**isten non- judgementally. **G**ive support and information. **E**ncourage the student to get appropriate help. **E**ncourage others support) Action Plan, carried out by a MHWB First Aider, will be operated when a student is suspected of having MHWB difficulties. Also, a Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) may be utilised when a student is suspected of having MHWB difficulties. Both the ALGEE action and or SDQ can assist the **Mental Health Lead** in creating an overview of the student's mental health and making a judgement about whether the students is likely to be suffering from any MHWB difficulties.

Where possible, the school will aim to be aware of any support programmes GPs are offering to pupils who are diagnosed with MHWB difficulties, especially when these may impact the students' behaviour and attainment at school.

Where appropriate, the Mental Health Lead, DSL, Deputy DSL, PLT, SENCO, Pastoral Support Worker will ask parents to give consent to their child's GP to share relevant information regarding MHWB with the school.

Mental Health Lead DSL, Deputy DSL, PLT, SENCO, Pastoral Support worker will discuss concerns regarding MHWB difficulties with the parents of students who have MHWB difficulties.

Mental Health Lead DSL, Deputy DSL, PLT, SENCO, Pastoral Support worker will consider all previous assessments and progress over time, and then refer the student to the appropriate services.

PLT, SENDCO, Pastoral Support worker will take any concerns expressed by parents, other students, colleagues and the students in question seriously.

The assessment, intervention and support processes available from the LA will be in line with the local offer.

All assessments will be in line with the provisions outlined in the school's **SEND Policy**.

The Designated mental Health Lead will work with Derbyshire network and MHWB provision team especially with the SCA Jessica Berry.

7 Intervention and support

Strategies to promote positive MHWB are in place at The Ecclesbourne School for example through the PDC programme, assemblies and use of whole staff training. The curriculum for PDC will focus on promoting students' resilience, confidence and ability to learn.

Positive classroom management and working in small groups will be implemented to promote positive behaviour, social development and high self-esteem. The Ecclesbourne School will ensure that poor behaviour is managed in line with the school's Behaviour Policy. Students' data will be used effectively so that patterns of attainment, attendance or behaviour are noticed and can be acted upon if necessary.

Staff members will observe, identify and monitor the behaviour of students potentially with MHWB difficulties; however, only medical professionals will make a diagnosis of a mental health condition.

School-based support via the pastoral workers will be offered to pupils who require it. Heads of Year and parents can make a referral for support. Where appropriate, parents will have a direct involvement in any intervention regarding their child. When in-school intervention is not appropriate, referrals and commissioning will take the place of in-school interventions. The school will continue to support the student as best it can. Serious cases of MHWB difficulties

will be referred to outside specialist agencies, **First Contact** (for students living in Derby) and **Starting Point** (for students resident in Derbyshire). The school will commission individual health and support services directly for students who require additional help. The services commissioned will be suitably accredited and will be able to demonstrate that they will improve outcomes for students

The school will implement the following process to ensure referring students to First Contact and Starting Point is effective:

- Use a clear process for identifying students in need of further support.
- Document evidence of their MHWB difficulties.
- Will work as effectively as possible when a referral has been accepted by the appropriate agency e.g. CAMHS
- Understand the criteria and work undertaken by specialist CAMHS.
- Have a close working relationship with the local CAMHS specialist.
- Consult CAMHS about the most effective things the school can do to support pupils whose needs aren't so severe that they require specialist CAMHS.

Peer mentoring may be used to encourage and support students, e.g., exam related anxiety or future aspirations as well as promoting positive well being via assemblies, mental health weeks, workshops etc. The peer mentor will receive training from the Mental Health Lead and the Assistant Mental Health Lead. They will use the 'Worth-it' programme.

8 Students with more complex problems

For students with more complex problems, additional in-school support will include:

- Supporting the pupil's teacher, to help them manage the student's behaviour.
- Additional educational one-to-one support for the students.
- One-to-one therapeutic work with the student, delivered by mental health specialists.
- An Educational Healthcare Plan. All schools must comply with the statutory duty of caring for students with Educational and medical needs.
- Professional mental health recommendations regarding medication may be sought.
- Family support and/or therapy will also be considered upon the recommendation of mental health professionals.

9 Monitoring and review

The policy is reviewed on a one Year basis by the **Mental Health Lead**, in conjunction with **the Governing Body** – any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all members of staff.

All members of staff are required to familiarise themselves with this policy as part of their induction programme.

The next scheduled review date for this policy is January 2025.

Key Staff

Mrs P Owen-Moore	Mental Health Lead (MHFA Eng)- Deputy Head Teacher/HoLS – Deputy DSL
Mrs C Ourabi	Senior Deputy Head and DSL
Mr D Duncker-Brown	Deputy Head teacher/HoUS (MHFA Eng) – Deputy DSL

Mr H Weller	Assistant Head Teacher/HoSF – (MHFA Eng) Deputy DSL
Mr J Poplawski	Head of Year 7 (MHFA Eng)
Mr Justin Weller	Head of Year 8
Mrs E Stott	Head of Year 9
Mrs R Laughlin	Progress Leader – (MHFA Eng)
Mrs V Dodson	Head of Year 10
Mr M Sellers	Head of Year 11 (MHFA Eng)
Mrs P Bamber	Head of Year 12 (MHFA Eng)
Mrs S Hadwin	Head of Year 13
Mrs L Monk	Pastoral Support Worker and Attendance Officer (MHFA Eng)
Mrs L Tanser	RN Nurse and Pastoral support worker
Mrs E Parry	Progress Leaders
Mrs E Williams	Safeguarding Assistant (MHFA Eng)
Mr D Partridge	SENDCO (MHFA Eng)
Mrs C James	SEND Faculty (MHFA Eng)
Mrs K Boyle	Medical (MHFA Eng)

