



Suicide-Safer Policy

Introduction

The School is aware that suicide is the leading cause of death in young people and that the School plays a vital role in helping to prevent young suicide. We want to make sure that students at the School are as suicide-safe as possible and that our governors, parents and carers, teaching staff, support staff, students and other key stakeholders are aware of our commitment to be a Suicide-Safer School.

1. Scope

This policy should be read in conjunction with the rest of the School's policies, in particular the Safeguarding Policy, Self-Harm Policy and Positive Mental Health Policy.

2. Beliefs about suicide and contributory factors

The following are important points about suicide and contributory factors which inform our policy and procedure in relation to suicide prevention in School.

a) Suicidal thoughts are common

We acknowledge that thoughts of suicide are common among young people.

b) Suicide is complex

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.

c) Stigma inhibits learning – stigma can kill

We recognise that the stigma surrounding suicide and mental illness can be both a barrier to seeking help and a barrier to offering help. The School is dedicated 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.

d) Suicide is everyone's business

As a School community, we recognise that students may seek out someone who they trust with their concerns and worries. We want to facilitate the reporting of any risks or concerns.

e) Safety is very important

We want to support our students, sometimes working in partnership with family, caregivers, external agencies and other professionals where this may enhance suicide-safety.

f) Suicide is a difficult thing to talk about

We know that a student who is suicidal may find it very difficult to make their feelings known and speak openly about suicide. Through the training of staff and whole school awareness of mental ill health, we will provide adults in school who are able to help identify and provide support when a student may be struggling with thoughts of suicide.



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g) Talking about suicide does not create or increase risk

We recognise that, contrary to common belief, talking about suicide does not create or increase risk; this is important when considering how best to identify and support students who are struggling with thoughts of suicide.

3. Actions by the School to implement a suicide prevention and intervention policy

a) The Head and the School's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) are responsible for the development of this policy. Together with the Pastoral Team, they are responsible for the implementation of this policy.

b) The School has a Pastoral Team, who work closely with the DSL and who understand this policy. They all have Level 3 Safeguarding training and are trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid. Some members of the Pastoral Team have also undergone Suicide Intervention Training. The Pastoral Team are the point of escalation for any concerns about a student or young person.

c) We will endeavour to ensure that all our staff are suicide aware. This means that all staff inductions will include suicide awareness as part of their regular Safeguarding training, i.e. how to spot signs, what to do and how to escalate any concerns to the Pastoral Team.

d) We will ensure that all students are suicide aware. This means that we will raise awareness of suicide that equip our students to know how to spot signs, what to do and how to escalate any concerns to the Pastoral Team. This will be done through the lessons on mental health as part of the PSHCE curriculum, through the assembly and tutorial programme and other events such as awareness days and also through displaying and signposting relevant sources of support.

e) We will put in place mechanisms which allow staff to be able to flag any concerns about the individual students, including suspected suicidal thoughts. This will be done via CPOMS safeguarding software, about which staff will receive training.

f) We will be aware of the physical safety of our environment and will take reasonable measures to reduce risk, including restricting access to potential liability points and places which facilitate jumping, and securely storing harmful substances.

g) We recognise that the need to protect someone's life overrides confidentiality and staff will report concerns to the DSL (or, in their absence, one of the Deputy DSLs) immediately.

h) When a student is identified as being at risk of self-harm or suicide, the DSL will be informed; if a student is in crisis the School would call Emergency Services. Parents should always be informed if a student is at risk of suicide.

Actions by the School to ensure a sensitive and safe suicide-postvention provision



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- a) The School will work in partnership with the Local Authority in the event of a serious incident, whereby someone has attempted or died by suicide.
- b) We will ensure that students and school staff are supported and able to access services when self-harm or suicide has affected them.
- c) We will also be mindful of the impact that supporting an inquest can have on staff and their wellbeing and signpost appropriate support, both in school and from external resources.
- d) We will ensure effective partnership working to support students returning school after a serious incident of self-harm or attempted suicide, ensuring that the young person is at the centre of decision making and determines who is best to support them in school.

This policy will be reviewed every two years.
It was last updated in October 2025.