

Let Your Light Shine

Headteacher: Paula Robinson B.Ed (Hons), NPQH

Our Vision

We are a school built on Christian foundations where every individual is celebrated as unique. We aspire to be curious, compassionate, tolerant and active in a diverse world. We gather together to build a community that finds each person's gifts and nurtures them that their light may shine. We hold a vision of success for all.

Let Your Light Shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven. Matthew 5:16

Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy

Policy to be approved by	Full Governing Body
Policy last reviewed	June 2025
Policy ratified and adopted by the Full Governing Body	
Policy due for review	June 2026

Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy

Aims

At Icklesham Church of England Primary School and Nursery we are committed to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of pupils, parents, carers, staff and other stakeholders.

This policy focuses on pupils' mental health and wellbeing. It aims to:

- Set out our school's approach to promoting positive mental health and wellbeing for all pupils across our school
- Provide guidance to staff on their role in supporting pupils' mental health and wellbeing, including how they can foster and maintain an inclusive culture in which pupils feel able to talk about and reflect on their experiences of mental health
- Support staff to identify and respond to early warning signs of mental health issues
- Inform pupils and their parents/carers about the support they can expect from our school in respect of pupils' mental health and wellbeing, and provide them with access to resources

This policy was written in consultation with the East Sussex Mental Health and Wellbeing Advisor –Natalie Miller.

It should be read alongside:

- SEND policy
- Behaviour policy
- Anti-bullying policy

Legislation and guidance

This policy was written with regard to:

- The Equality Act 2010
- The Data Protection Act 2018
- Articles 3 and 23 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

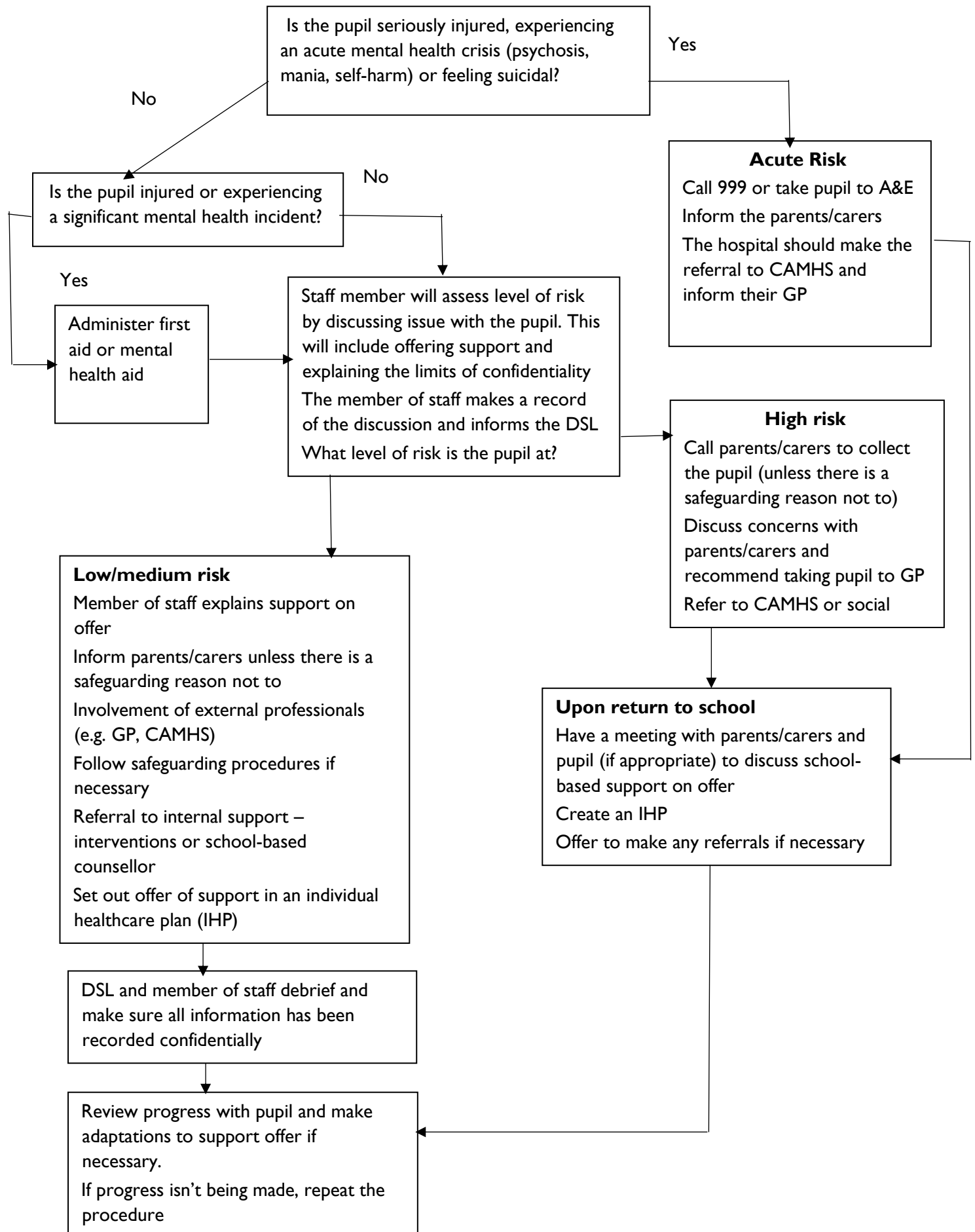
Roles and responsibilities

All staff are responsible for promoting positive mental health and wellbeing across our school and for understanding risk factors. If any members of staff are concerned about a pupil's mental health or wellbeing, they should inform the DSL and Safeguarding Team and MHBW Team.

Certain members of staff have extra duties to lead on mental health and wellbeing in school. These members of staff include:

- Mrs Paula Robinson Head Teacher
- Mrs Kathryn Isaac DSL
- Mrs Paula Robinson SENCO
- Mrs Kathryn Isaac Mental health lead
- Mrs Joanna Barry Attendance
- Miss Stacy Hart ELSA
- Mrs Lisa Rendle MHWB Team member and SEND Administrator
- Mrs Joanna Barry MHWB Team member

Procedure to follow in a case of acute mental health crisis



Warning signs

All staff will be on the lookout for signs that a pupil's mental health is deteriorating. Some warning signs include:

Changes in:

- Mood or energy level
- Eating or sleeping patterns
- Attitude in lessons or academic attainment
- Level of personal hygiene
- Social isolation
- Poor attendance or punctuality
- Expressing feelings of hopelessness, anxiety, worthlessness or feeling like a failure
- Abuse of drugs or alcohol
- Rapid weight loss or gain
- Secretive behaviour
- Covering parts of the body that they wouldn't have previously
- Refusing to participate in P.E. or being secretive when changing clothes
- Physical pain or nausea with no obvious cause
- Physical injuries that appear to be self-inflicted
- Talking or joking about self-harm or suicide

Managing disclosures

If a pupil makes a disclosure about themselves or a peer to a member of staff, staff should remain calm, non-judgmental and reassuring.

Staff will focus on the pupil's emotional and physical safety, rather than trying to find out why they are feeling that way or offering advice.

Staff will always follow our school's safeguarding policy and pass on all concerns to the DSL/mental health lead or a member of the safeguarding / Mental Health and Well Being Team. All disclosures are recorded and stored on My Concern.

When making a record of a disclosure, staff will include:

- The full name of the member of staff who is making the record
- The full name of the pupil(s) involved
- The date, time and location of the disclosure
- The context in which the disclosure was made
- Any questions asked or support offered by the member of staff
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Confidentiality

Staff will not promise a pupil that they will keep a disclosure secret – instead they will be upfront about the limits of confidentiality.

A disclosure cannot be kept secret because:

- Being the sole person responsible for a pupil's mental health could have a negative impact on the member of staff's own mental health and wellbeing
- The support put in place for the pupil will be dependent on the member of staff being at school
- Other staff members can share ideas on how to best support the pupil in question
- Staff should always share disclosures with at least 1 appropriate colleague. This will usually be the DSL/mental health lead and Team. If information needs to be shared with other members of staff or external professionals, it will be done on a need-to-know basis.

Before sharing information disclosed by a pupil with a third party, the member of staff will discuss it with the pupil and explain:

- Who they will share the information with
- What information they will share
- Why they need to share that information
- Staff will attempt to receive consent from the pupil to share their information, but the safety of the pupil comes first.
- Parents/carers will be informed unless there is a child protection concern. In this case the safeguarding policy will be followed.

Process for managing confidentiality around disclosures

1. Pupil makes a disclosure
2. Member of staff offers support
3. Member of staff explains the issues around confidentiality and rationale for sharing a disclosure with DSL/mental health lead or Team.
4. Member of staff will attempt to get the pupil's consent to share – if no consent is given, explain to the pupil who the information will be shared with and why
5. Member of staff will record the disclosure and share the information with the chosen elected member of staff
6. The DSL/mental health lead will inform the parent/carer (if appropriate)
7. Any other relevant members of staff or external professionals will be informed on a need-to-know basis

Supporting pupils

Baseline support for all pupils

As part of our school's commitment to promoting positive mental health and wellbeing for all pupils, our school offers support to all pupils by:

- Raising awareness of mental health during assemblies, tutor time, PSHE and mental health awareness week
- Signposting all pupils to sources of online support on our school website
- Having open discussions about mental health during lessons
- Providing pupils with avenues to provide feedback on any elements of our school that is negatively impacting their mental health
- Monitoring all pupils' mental health through assessments, e.g. a strengths and difficulties questionnaire
- Appointing a senior mental health lead with a strategic oversight of our whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing
- Offering pastoral support, through ELSA
- Making classrooms a safe space to discuss mental health and wellbeing through interventions such as: Worry boxes, Circle Time and use of the Zones of Regulation materials

Assessing what further support is needed

If a pupil is identified as having a mental health need, a member of the Mental Health and Wellbeing Team will take a graduated and case-by-case approach to assessing the support our school can provide, further to the baseline support detailed above. Bi-weekly Mental Health and Wellbeing triage meetings are held with the senior leadership team alongside the Safeguarding Team meetings to support identification of need.

Our school will offer support in cycles of:

- Assessing what the pupil's mental health needs are
- Creating a plan to provide support
- Taking the actions set out in the plan
- Reviewing the effectiveness of the support offered

Internal mental health interventions

Where appropriate, a pupil will be offered support that is tailored to their needs as part of the graduated approach detailed above. The support offered at our school includes:

- Nurture groups
- ELSA sessions
- Reduced timetable
- Time-out pass

Individual healthcare plans (IHPs)

A pupil will be offered an individual healthcare plan (IHP) if their need significantly affects the child's ability to attend school, participate in activities, or manage their health independently.

IHPs are written in collaboration with the pupil (if appropriate), their parent/carer, and any other relevant professionals.

The pupil's IHP will contain the following details:

- The mental health issue (and its triggers, signs, symptoms and treatments)
- The pupil's needs resulting from the condition
- Specific support for the pupil's educational, social and emotional needs
- The level of support needed
- Who will provide the support
- Who in our school needs to be aware of the child's condition
- What to do in an emergency

Making external referrals

If a pupil's needs cannot be met by the internal offer our school provides, our school will make, or encourage parents/carers to make, a referral for external support.

A pupil could be referred to:

- Their GP or a paediatrician
- CAMHS
- Mental health charities (e.g. Samaritans, Mind, Young Minds, Kooth)
- Local counselling services

Supporting and collaborating with parents/carers

We will work with parents/carers to support pupils' mental health by:

- Asking parents/carers to inform us of any mental health needs their child is experiencing, so we can offer the right support
- Informing parents/carers of mental health concerns that we have about their child
- Engaging with parents/carers to understand their mental health and wellbeing issues, as well as that of their child, and support them accordingly to make sure there is holistic support for them and their child
- Highlighting sources of information and support about mental health and wellbeing on our school website, including the mental health and wellbeing policy
- Liaising with parents/carers to discuss strategies that can help promote positive mental health in their child through collaborations with external agencies such as Me and My Mind
- Providing guidance to parents/carers on navigating and accessing relevant local mental health services or other sources of support (e.g. parent/carer forums)
- Keeping parents/carers informed about the mental health topics their child is learning about in PSHE, and share ideas for extending and exploring this learning at home

When informing parents/carers about any mental health concerns we have about their child, we will endeavour to do this face-to-face.

These meetings can be difficult, so our school will ensure that parents/carers are given time to reflect on what has been discussed, and that lines of communication are kept open at the end of the meeting.

A record of what was discussed, and action plans agreed upon in the meeting will be recorded and added to the pupil's confidential record.

If appropriate, an individual healthcare plan (IHP) will be created in collaboration with parents/carers.

Supporting peers

Watching a friend experience poor mental health can be very challenging for pupils. Pupils may also be at risk of learning and developing unhealthy coping mechanisms from each other.

We will offer support to all pupils impacted by mental health directly and indirectly. We will review the support offered on a case-by-case basis. Support might include:

- Strategies they can use to support their friends
- Things they should avoid doing/saying
- Warning signs to look out for
- Signposting to sources of external support

Signposting

Sources of support are displayed around our school and linked to on our school website, so pupils and parents/carers are aware of how they can get help.

The MHWB Team will be available to provide further information to pupils and parents/carers if they want to learn more about what support is available.

This support can be found on the school website or by contacting a member of the Mental Health and Wellbeing Team by email kisaac@ickleshamcp.e-sussex.sch.uk or office@ickleshamcp.e-sussex.sch.uk

Whole school approach to promoting mental health awareness

Mental health is taught in PSHE

At Icklesham Church of England Primary School and Nursery, we teach mental health and wellbeing through the 'Opening Young Minds, Let's Talk' PSHE curriculum which develops the importance of talking and the different ways to express our feelings. Thought gremlins are tackled, gratitude and self-care are promoted so that pupils boost their wellbeing. The PSHE curriculum permeates through every aspect of school life so that a calm, safe supportive environment is established where everyone can flourish.

Pupils are taught to:

- Develop healthy coping strategies
- Challenge misconceptions around mental health
- Understand their own emotional state
- Keep themselves safe

For more information, see our PSHE curriculum on the website

Creating a positive atmosphere around mental health

Staff will create an open culture around mental health by:

- Discussing mental health with pupils in order to break down stigma
- Encouraging pupils to disclose when their mental health is deteriorating

Training

All staff will be offered training so they:

Have a good understanding of what pupils' mental health needs are

Know how to recognise warning signs of mental ill health

Know a clear process to follow if they identify a pupil in need of help

Provide up-to-date training through staff meetings, INSET days and online CPD

Support for staff

We recognise that supporting a pupil experiencing poor mental health can affect that staff member's own mental health and wellbeing. To help with this we offer the following support:

- Universal support which includes: PPA at home, open door policy, book swap and puzzles in the staffroom, staff socials, Regular CPD, MHEW focus in appraisals, MHEW information board in staffroom
- Targeted support which includes: Weekly checks in with member of SLT, co-created wellbeing plans, end of day debriefs, ESCC online reflective practice sessions
- Specialist support which includes: OH referrals, EAP, HR, Education support (website/phone)

Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed by Kathryn Isaac MHWB Lead, annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the governing body and SLT.