

Mental Health and Well-being Policy

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It is widely recognised that a child's emotional health and wellbeing influences their cognitive development and learning, as well as their physical and social health and their mental wellbeing in adulthood.ⁱ

The Department of Education (2015) states *'In order to help their pupils succeed, schools have a role to play in supporting them to be resilient and mentally healthy'*.

This policy refers directly to the 'Six Principles of Nurture' which are recommended by Nurture UK.

Vision Statement

'To inspire and nurture our children and their community to be the very best that they can be'.

The Inclusive Multi Academy Trust aims to promote a love of learning and happy school environments by ensuring all pupils:

- Develop social and emotional skills and well-being to be successful in school and beyond.
- Have curious minds and a desire to learn
- Enjoy a supportive atmosphere of security, happiness and care which encourages success
- Experience a values based school environment which encourages pupils to grow and learn through values which are crucial to our school and society as a whole
- Develop morally, spiritually and culturally, so enabling them to develop an understanding of those concepts needed as a basis of a happy and caring society
- Celebrate the diversity of our student population through exploring one another's culture, heritage and faith with healthy curiosity and respect
- Make progress appropriate for their ability across all subjects
- Leave school, having achieved their academic potential and being self-motivated and resilient, considerate, responsible and enthusiastic young people.

Rationale

*'Social and emotional well-being refers to a state of positive mental health and wellness. It involves a sense of optimism, confidence, happiness, clarity, vitality, self-worth, achievement, having a meaning and purpose, engagement, having supportive and satisfying relationships with others and understanding one's self and responding effectively to one's own emotions.'*ⁱⁱ

The Inclusive Multi Academy Trust promotes positive and social and emotional well-being for all and this is fundamental to our philosophy and aims. We believe that emotional health is closely linked to mental health and that as a Trust we can encourage positive development of mental health in childhood. We believe that children who are mentally healthy will be able to:

- Develop spiritually, psychologically, intellectually, creatively and emotionally
- Initiate, develop and sustain mutually satisfying personal relationships
- Become aware of others and empathise with them
- Play and learn
- Develop a sense of right and wrong
- Be buoyant and resilient by facing challenges, resolve issues and setbacks and learn from them
- Thrive and reach their full potential.

Our Approach

Curriculum organisation

We deliver a broad area of practice to promote emotional health and well-being.

These complement and reflect the overall aims and philosophy of the school. Our approach includes:

- Quality first class teaching, appropriate challenge and differentiation for all
- Problem-solving, positive self-assessment, time for reflection and quality feedback
- Encouragement of participation in school and community events
- Rewarding positive behaviour and achievement
- Clearly identified rewards and sanctions, understood by all
- Being a listening school - providing forums for our pupils to share their views in class
- Encouraging co-operation, caring, collaboration and critical thinking
- Encouraging a solution focussed approach to conflict resolution
- Making time for the whole class to engage in the therapeutic practices on a daily basis when possible
- Protective behaviours taught through the PSHE curriculum and embedded into daily school life
- Nurture principles embedded throughout the school
- Developing social competence through all class based activities
- Encouraging and developing coping strategies and resilience and reinforcement of our Trust values through the curriculum, but particularly PSHE
- Clear transition arrangements to the next year group or onto a receiving school.

Pastoral organisation for pupils

We pride ourselves on the great care that is given to all pupils in our schools. Pastoral staff work together to support individuals and groups throughout the schools.

Pastoral Staff take a strategic lead in promoting social and emotional well-being through whole staff training and professional development and ensuring that the initiatives are embedded in daily practice throughout the school. The Pastoral Team further supports teachers by modelling practices in class, providing resources, supporting with planning and monitoring the effectiveness of these whole school initiatives (e.g. P4C, peer massage, etc) We recognise the effectiveness of an early intervention approach and commitment to pastoral care for all.

Our methods include:

- Recognising and responding positively to a child's emotional and/or behavioural needs
- Communicating with parents positively and realistically to create a partnership approach to children's emotional health and well-being
- Having an effective strategic role for the Special Educational Needs Co-coordinators
- Continuous professional development for staff e.g Five Ways to Well-being; P4C; Buoyancy Balloons; Mindfulness Training
- Finding different ways to include well-being throughout the curriculum e.g. Yoga in PE lessons
- Having clear systems and processes to help staff to identify children and young people with possible mental health problems.
- Liaising with appropriate agencies to enlist advice and/or support
- Liaising with the SENCOs and referring children on, where there are more significant issues, to the GP, Step 2 or CAMHs.

Individual or Group Interventions

For children who are recognised to need support with their emotional well-being there are a range of individual or group therapeutic interventions available in school. Interventions can be both reactive when needed as well as proactive based on professional judgement and key indicators.

These include a range of the following talk therapies:

- Weekly 1-1 talk time with a member of staff
- Emotion Coaching
- 10 week 1-1 transition programme using Talkabout Materials
- Drawing and Talking Therapy (individual or group)
- Lego Therapy (individual or group)
- Sand Therapy (individual for Foundation Stage Children)
- Play Therapy (bought in from BrQthru)
- Seasons for Growth (Group – loss programme)

In addition, the Trust also offers a range of the talk and activity based interventions :

- Inside Out (Lunchtime intervention for pupils who find play difficult – encourages sharing and co-operation)
- All About Me (Eating and body image group)
- Nurture Lunchtimes
- Transformers (Peer to peer mentoring scheme)
- Mosaic (Inspiring girls to develop aspirations for their futures)
- Drumming Therapies
- Social Stories
- Social Skills Groups
- Get Fit Club

Depending on the child's needs, the school may complete a SNAP profile, Boxall Profile or Strength and Difficulty questionnaire and the ALSUP. These give a profile of the child an indication of the child's areas of development. The SNAP and Boxall Profile also give strategies to support the child.

Well-being and Support for all stakeholders

Pastoral support for all members of the school community is fundamental to the aims and philosophy of the Inclusive Multi Academy Trust.

Pastoral organisation for staff

We believe that a well-supported, valued staff with clear and shared purpose are best placed to provide emotional well-being for children in their care.

Our line management structure promotes in-house support. We follow guidelines and policies for supporting personnel, including those for harassment, anti-bullying, equality and managing staff absence. A clear system of line management exists to monitor and support staff needs through the performance appraisal system and to foster good relationships.

Headteachers have an open door policy and will provide a listening ear for any staff member in need. He will signpost to other supporting staff members. Staff can access counselling through SAS. We encourage schools to have a Staff Council that meets once a half-term and the matters arising are fed back to the headteacher, governors or trustees.

Pastoral support for families

Pastoral Staff are the first port of call for a family in crisis or who have a need.

The school supports families through:

- Open door policy
- Home visits for children joining the school in the Foundation Stage
- Workshops for parents on curriculum subjects as well as on well-being topics

- Regular communication through newsletters, school website, school app, Twitter and Facebook
- Training workshops personalised to the needs of our families. E.g. CV writing course, financial planning
- HAFLs – Family Learning Service. Deliver courses to gain a qualification in English and Maths for adults
- Targeted support for families through the Families First Assessment (FFA) and subsequent TAFs (Team around the Family meetings).

To ensure that families have a voice and participate as fully as possible in decision making:

- Parent Council – parents can raise items for the agenda
- Survey Monkey questionnaires

Related Policies:

- Nurture Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Child Protection
- Anti-Bullying
- Attendance
- eSafety

Monitoring

Provision and impact is monitored by the headship, senior leadership team and governing body. This policy will be reviewed every three years.

ⁱ Promoting children and young people's emotional health and wellbeing. A whole school and college approach. Crown copyright 2015.

ⁱⁱ What works in promoting social and emotional well-being and responding to mental health problems in schools? – National Children's Bureau 2015