

Policy for Children's Mental Health at Willow Park School

Purpose

This policy aims to promote and maintain good mental health and well-being for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) attending Willow Park School. It aims to provide a supportive environment that addresses the emotional, social, and psychological needs of children with SEND.

Scope

This policy applies to all children with SEND attending the school, including those with specific learning difficulties, physical disabilities, mental health issues, or developmental disorders.

Legal Framework

This policy considers the following UK legislation:

The Children and Families Act 2014: This act places a duty on local authorities and schools to identify and support children with special educational needs and disabilities, including those with mental health issues.

The Equality Act 2010: This act ensures that children with SEND are not discriminated against and have equal access to education, including mental health support.

The Mental Health Act 1983: This act outlines the procedures for the assessment, treatment, and care of people with mental health disorders, including children with SEND.

The Children Act 1989 and 2004: These acts outline the responsibilities of local authorities and schools to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Key Principles

This policy is guided by the following principles:

Promoting positive mental health: The school will promote a positive culture and environment that encourages good mental health and well-being for all children with SEND.

Early identification and intervention: The school will have procedures for identifying children with mental health issues early and providing appropriate interventions and support.

Person-centered approach: The school will take a person-centered approach to mental health support, taking into account the individual needs and preferences of each child with SEND.

Partnership working: The school will promote partnership working between the school, parents, carers, and relevant external agencies to ensure a coordinated and effective response to mental health issues.

Staff training and support: The school will ensure that all staff receive training and support to enable them to identify and support children with mental health issues effectively.

Implementation

To implement this policy, the school will take the following actions:

Designate a member of staff responsible for leading on mental health and well-being in the school is Kimberley Preston

Provide training and support for all staff to enable them to identify and support children with mental health issues effectively.

Develop a range of interventions and support mechanisms, including mindfulness, group work, and peer support.

Establish effective partnership working with parents, carers, and relevant external agencies, such as Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the policy regularly and make appropriate changes.

Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure it remains up to date and effective.