
THE CAREY FEDERATION



The Carey Federation Mental Health Policy

Adopted April 2024

To be reviewed April 2026

Policy Statement

Within the Carey Federation, we are committed to supporting the positive mental health and emotional wellbeing of our whole school community (children, staff, governors, volunteers, contracted staff, parents and carers).

We have a supportive and caring ethos and our approach is respectful and kind, where each individual and contribution is valued. We are aspirational for our children and believe that to have a fulfilling education, we must nurture children's well-being and happiness. This is echoed in our motto: Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other. We endeavour to ensure that children are able to manage times of change and stress and aim to ensure that they are supported to reach their potential or to access help when they need it. We believe that by equipping our children with knowledge and skills they may be more prepared to face challenges in life.

We also have a role to ensure that children learn about what they can do to maintain positive mental health, what affects their mental health, how they can help reduce the stigma surrounding mental health issues, and where they can go if they need help and support.

At our school we know that everyone experiences life challenges that can make us vulnerable and at times, anyone may need additional emotional support. We take the view that positive mental health is everybody's responsibility and that we all have a role to play.

Teaching about mental health

Within the Carey Federation, we take a whole school approach to promoting positive mental health, aiming to help children become more resilient, happy and successful and to work in a pro-active way to reduce needs arising or to have strategies to meet needs.

We do this by:

- Creating and applying consistent ethos, policies and behaviours that support mental health and well-being.
- Implementing a positive, restorative and relational approach to behaviour management.
- Helping children socially to form and maintain relationships.
- Helping children to feel comfortable about sharing any concerns or worries.
- Teaching children emotional skills and an awareness of mental health so that they understand their emotions and feelings better.
- Promoting self-esteem and ensuring children understand their importance in the world.
- Helping children to be resilient learners and to manage setbacks.

- Identifying children who have mental health challenges and planning support to meet their needs, including working with specialist services, parents and carers.
- Supporting and training staff to develop their skills and their own resilience.
- Developing an open culture where it's normal to talk about mental health.
- Staff are able to access to 'Health assured' an Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) to support their own needs.

We promote a mentally healthy environment through:

- Promoting our school values and encouraging a sense of belonging.
- Promoting pupil voice and opportunities to participate in decision-making.
- Celebrating academic and non-academic achievements.
- Providing opportunities to develop a sense of worth through taking responsibility for themselves and others.
- Providing opportunities to reflect.
- Enabling access to appropriate support.
- Mental Health and PSHE for all year groups
- Wellbeing week and access to information around the school

We pursue our aims through:

- Universal, whole school approaches e.g. Scarf Coram resources & Zones of Regulation.
- Support for pupils going through recent difficulties including bereavement.
- Specialised, targeted approaches aimed at pupils with more complex or long-term difficulties including attachment disorder.
- Nurture groups to focus on mental health, resilience and wellbeing.

Staff roles and responsibilities, including those with specific responsibility

All staff have a responsibility to promote the mental health of students,

Named Mental Health Lead – Rosie Cawsey (SENDCO)

Named Mental Health Governor – Dr Revd Paul Fitzpatrick

Our Mental Health Lead:

- Lead and work with all staff to co-ordinate whole school activities to promote positive mental health and wellbeing.
- Work with the PSHE leader re: teaching about mental health and well being
- Provide advice and support to staff and organises training and updates.
- Liaise with mental health services and makes individual referrals to them.

Teaching about Mental Health

The skills, knowledge and understanding needed by our pupils to keep themselves mentally healthy and safe are included as part of our developmental PSHE curriculum. The specific content of lessons will be determined by the specific needs of the cohort we're teaching but we will also use the PSHE Association Guidance to ensure that we teach mental health and emotional wellbeing issues in a safe and sensitive manner.

Targeted support

The Federation will offer support through targeted approaches for individual pupils or groups of pupils which may include:

- Circle time approaches and activities.
- Targeted use of SCARF Coram resources.
- Managing feelings resources e.g. 'worry boxes'.
- Managing emotions resources, eg. Zones of Regulation
- Relaxation and mindfulness techniques.

The school will make use of resources to assess and track wellbeing as appropriate including:

- The Boxall Profile
- Emotional literacy scales
- Strengths and Difficulties questionnaire

Early Identification and Warning Signs

All staff will be vigilant in identifying a range of possible difficulties that may be contributing to a pupil's poor mental health, including:

- Attendance
- Punctuality
- Relationships
- Attitude to learning
- Physical indicators
- Negative behaviour patterns
- Family circumstance
- Recent bereavement
- Health indicators

School staff may also become aware of warning signs which indicate a pupil is experiencing mental health or emotional wellbeing issues. These warning signs should always be taken seriously and staff observing any of these warning signs should communicate their concerns with the designated child protection and safeguarding officer or the emotional wellbeing lead as appropriate.

Possible warning signs may include:

- Changes in eating/sleeping habits
- Becoming socially withdrawn
- Changes in activity and mood
- Talking about self-harm or suicide
- Expressing feelings of failure, uselessness or loss of hope
- Repeated physical pain or nausea with no evident cause
- An increase in lateness or absenteeism

Assessment, interventions and support

All concerns are reported to the designated adults within school and needs are assessed by SLT, class teachers and SENDCO to ensure the child gets the support they need, either from within the school or from an external specialist service, as quickly as possible.

Working with parents and carers.

Parents or carers can approach their child/children's class teacher if they have mental health concerns. This will be cascaded to the Mental Health Lead for assessment. To support parents and carers we will:

- Provide information online on mental health issues and local wellbeing and parenting programmes.
- Share ideas about how parents and carers can support positive mental health in their children.
- Keep parents informed about the mental health topics taught in PSHE and share ideas for extending and exploring this at home.

When a concern has been raised, teachers or the Mental Health Lead will:

- Contact parents to discuss the outcome of any assessment (Although there may be cases, parents and carers cannot be involved due to child protection issues.)
- Discuss any relevant referrals to external agencies.
- Signpost parents to further information or provide resources to take away.
- Create a chronology of actions and events.
- Agree mental health care and protection plan where appropriate including clear next steps.
- Discuss how parents can support their child through strategies or signposts to parenting support groups.

Working with specialist services

As part of our targeted provision, the school will work with other agencies to support children's emotional health and wellbeing. Children may be referred to one of the following services for additional support:

- School Nursing Service
- Children's and Family Services
- CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service)
- Educational Psychology Services

Training

All staff will receive regular training about recognising and responding to mental health issues as part of their regular child protection training in order to enable them to keep pupils safe. The MindEd learning portal provides free online training suitable for staff wishing to know more about a specific issue.

Links to other policies

This policy links to our Child Protection Policy, Anti Bullying, SEND Offer and our Behaviour Policy.