

Mental Health and Wellbeing Statement

Godmanchester Community Academy



Kindness and Hard Work

Our Commitment

At Godmanchester Community Academy, we believe that positive mental health and wellbeing are fundamental to children's learning, development and achievement. We are committed to creating a safe, inclusive and nurturing environment in which all pupils, staff and members of our community can thrive.

Our school values of Kindness and Hard Work underpin our approach to promoting emotional wellbeing and resilience. We recognise that good mental health is everyone's responsibility and forms an important part of our safeguarding culture.

A Whole-School Approach

We promote positive mental health through:

- A culture where children feel safe, valued and listened to.
- High-quality relationships between pupils, staff and families.
- An inclusive curriculum that develops emotional literacy, resilience and self-regulation.
- Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education and Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE).
- Opportunities for pupils to develop confidence, independence and a sense of belonging through The GCA Way and wider curriculum.
- Positive behaviour approaches that support children's emotional development.

Identifying Need

All staff have a responsibility to identify pupils who may be experiencing emotional or mental health difficulties. Concerns may be identified through:

- Daily interactions with pupils.
- Changes in behaviour, attendance or engagement.
- Information shared by parents or carers.
- Safeguarding concerns.
- Assessment and monitoring processes.

Support and Intervention

Support is provided through a graduated approach, which may include:

- Classroom-based support and reasonable adjustments.
- Pastoral support and check-ins.
- Emotional literacy and wellbeing interventions.
- Support from the Welfare Administrator and/or SENCO.
- Early Help assessments.

- Referral to external agencies, including Mental Health Support Teams, School Nursing Services, CAMHS and other specialist services where appropriate.

Safeguarding

We recognise that mental health concerns can be an indicator of abuse, neglect, trauma or other safeguarding risks. All concerns relating to a pupil's wellbeing are considered within the context of our safeguarding responsibilities and are managed in accordance with our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Working with Families

We value strong partnerships with parents and carers and seek to work collaboratively to support children's emotional wellbeing. We will involve families appropriately when concerns arise and signpost support where needed.

Staff Wellbeing

We recognise the importance of supporting staff wellbeing. Leaders are committed to fostering a positive working environment, promoting professional support and encouraging staff to seek help when needed.

Leadership and Responsibilities

The Headteacher has overall responsibility for promoting mental health and wellbeing across the school.

Key staff involved in supporting wellbeing include:

- Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Tess Fielden
- Deputy DSLs: Chris Dorey, Heidi Pauley, David Gibbs
- SENCO: Heidi Pauley
- Pastoral Team: David Gibbs, Gemma George
- Attendance Lead: Tess Fielden, David Gibbs
- Senior Mental Health Lead: Tess Fielden, Chris Dorey

Review

This statement will be reviewed annually by school leaders and LAB members to ensure it continues to reflect the needs of our school community.