



The Marlborough Science Academy Self-Harm Policy

Responsible Governing Body Committee:	Personnel Committee
Policy type:	Statutory
Date of Origin:	September 2013
Adopted by:	Full GB
Author:	James Griggs
Location:	
Filename:	

Review Due Date	Review Completed	Amendments Y/N
April 2016	Yes	Yes
April 2018	October 2020	Yes
October 2021	February 2022	Yes
October 2023	October 2023	No
October 2024		

Other policies/procedures linked to this policy:

Teaching and Learning Policy GP38

Equal Opportunities GP09

Anti Bullying Policy GP15

Special Education Needs Policy GP21

Child Protection Policy and Safeguarding GP11

Status:

Additional Policy

Definition

Here at the Marlborough Science Academy we believe that our values create and underpin our ethos. The five core values of Dignity, Kindness, Compassion, Courage and Endeavour form the foundation of all we do as a school and help us to secure a vibrant community in which to flourish. This policy has been created to help promote and ensure that these values remain at the heart of everything we do as a school.

In keeping with the school's values, this policy aims to address the issue of self-harm:

It defines self-harm as

"A full and conscious intention by the individual to cause injury, completed in a limited period of time, resulting in tissue damage that leads to scarring"

Purpose

The Governing Body wants to address the issues surrounding self-harm. It wants to make clear that staff have a clear responsibility to make enquiries if they have reason to suspect that a student is suffering or likely to suffer from self-harm. The investigations should enable them to decide what action to take. It expects that the students who self-harm will be offered support depending on their individual needs and to help students improve their self-esteem and emotional literacy. It will ensure that staff members that come into contact with students who self-harm will be supported. Clear guidelines will be in place for the staff to follow when dealing with students who self-harm; this includes who needs to be informed, and when parents and outside agencies need contacting. The school will educate students and staff alike about self-harm.

Risks

The school understands that students who self-harm may well have underlying issues which increase the risk associated with self-harm these include

- Mental Health disorders including depression and eating disorders

- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Recent trauma, e.g. death of a relative or parent's divorce
- Low self-esteem
- Bullying
- Abuse-sexual, physical and emotional
- Sudden changes in behaviour and academic performance
- Suicide
- Accidental self-harm
- Neglect

Support provided by the school

The school has a number of different strategies in place to be able to support students whilst the mental health services are engaging in specialised work with the students who are struggling with their mental health and well being. These strategies include, but are not limited to

- Support in the learning sanctuary
- Support in the reintegration room
- Support from the school counsellors
- Support from the schools Educational Mental Health Practitioner (EMHP)
- Support from the schools Art Therapist
- Support from the schools Healthy Lifestyles Lead
- Advice and guidance from the schools mental health lead
- Advice and guidance from one of the schools mental health first aiders
- Advice and signposting from the NHS Educational Mental Health Team based at the school.
- Raising awareness, support and Guidance as a part of Childrens mental health week
- Raising awareness at key dates during the year as a part of the weekly powerpoint during form period
- Raising awareness and communicating with students through the school parliament

Who/what was consulted

School medical service

Local Authority- Emotional and Wellbeing Strategy

Schools Mental Health lead

Implementation and Recording:

The policy is available for all staff to read and use.
All incidents are recorded

Relationship to other policies

Health and Safety Policy, Drug Education Policy, Anti Bullying Policy, Behaviour Management Policy

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

Monitoring of this policy will be a variety of methods including an analysis of the behaviour database, and the self-harm log, exclusions and the re integration and sanctuary rooms, surveying staff, attainment, student and parental views, as well as new advice given to schools through our Local Pastoral Hub attended by Schools Mental health Lead from CAMHS and other supply agencies and professionals.