St Bonaventure's Catholic Primary School
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Self Harm Policy 2017

Policy Owner	Headteacher
Governing Body Committee	MECP
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This policy is available at
http://www.st-bonaventures.bristol.sch.uk/

Version History

Version	Date	Page	Description of Change	Origin of Change
1	08.07.15		New policy	

Introduction

As a Catholic school we believe that each of us is made in God's image. St Bon's Catholic Primary School therefore seeks to support each pupil's development in ways which will foster a positive self-image, confidence and a sense of worth. The pupil's welfare is of paramount importance and all staff have a responsibility to be mindful of issues relating to pupils' welfare and a duty to report any concerns.

This policy sets out clear guidelines on the school's procedures for dealing with those who self-harm whilst the pupil is in school and is for pupil, their parents / carers and staff. It is consistent with the school's overall values and aims.

Definition of Self Harm

Self-harm is a term used when someone injures or harms himself or herself on purpose (also called self-injury or deliberate self-harm) rather than by accident. Common examples include deliberate hair removal, pinching cutting, hitting, scratching or burning. Attempted suicide is the most serious form of self-harm.

How the school will help support pupils with self-harm

The school will help pupils who self-harm by developing a common understanding through training, listening to concerns from friends; parents and members of staff. There will be long-term strategies to enhance self-esteem and develop emotional literacy. Pupils will be made aware of the policy and who the named staff members are if they wish to report a concern.

How the school will respond when a concern is raised

If a pupil wishes to disclose that they self-harm the staff member(s) to approach are the Headteacher.

These members of staff will record all incidents and discuss with the pupil the chain of command.

A similar route will be taken if a friend discloses self-harm.

There will be a time scale for the designated staff member to take the various steps below:

The recommended Chain of Action is as follows:

- **pupil** is spoken to re concerns (by nominated teacher)
- **parents /carers** are informed (and also referred to the school nurse, child protection officer)
- **parents /carers** are invited to school for a meeting with Headteacher
- **parents /carers** are recommended to seek consultation with family GP and to inform the school of the outcome within a nominated period of time
- **school** is given permission by parents to have feedback from the GP
- **if no follow up occurs** with the GP and the school remains concerned, the school may arrange an appointment with the school doctor/other specialists that may be associated with the school. In situations of extreme concern the school is also able to refer directly to CAMHS.
- **follow up** meetings are arranged between the parents/carers and Headteacher so that progress can be assessed and any targets reviewed.
- **nominated staff member** will act as a link with the pupil
- **timetable changes**, such as suspension from lessons that require extent of self-harm to be revealed to the others (for example PE) are likely to occur.
- **any pupil who self-harms at school and is a risk to themselves or others** may be suspended until they are able to contain this behaviour at school
- **disciplinary steps** will be taken by school if a pupil is found with implements that are used to cause self-harm (razors, knives, blades, etc) at school which may include suspension
- **based on medical feedback**, the suitability of the student's continuing attendance at school will be assessed
- **contagion will be managed** by staff keeping an eye on the peer group and other potentially vulnerable young people in the year, by continued education on the fact that self-harm is an expression of distress rather than a risk behaviour that should be 'tried out'
- **steps may be taken** to ensure that parents of the year group are informed (without naming) so that they monitor their children

School policy on confidentiality

Our school policy will be to inform parents/carers if we feel the pupil is at risk to themselves or to others.

The school may also need to pass on the information to some of the staff. The pupil and their parents/carers will be informed and the reasons why such staff need to know.

If concerns about a pupil have been raised by a friend/s, it should be decided with the pupil what feedback is given to the friends about the action the school will be taking on their behalf. In the case of friends presenting with concerns their parents may need informing and again the need to know policy in terms of confidentiality will be used

Management of other relevant circumstances

The school will consider managing the return of a pupil to school after a period of in-patient treatment or period of time off school in a way that is as supportive to the individual student but also supportive of the rest of the pupils.

Documentation

A record will be made of all incidents, discussion points and dates and the decided course of action.

Staff support

The designated staff member will have a duty to keep up to date with information regarding self-harm and forms of support available.

Staff who have been involved with a pupil who self-harms may need support and will be offered this opportunity through a number agreed ways with the school. These may include discussion with another experienced staff member or counselling.

Roles of responsibility

The Head Teacher has a responsibility to appoint a designated member of staff for dealing with incidents of self-harm (this is often the child protection officer). The head teacher and governing body should ensure the policy is in place, communicated to staff and implemented. Staff at all levels should be offered training and updated on the policy.

Implementing and reviewing the policy

Parents, pupils and staff should all be aware there is a policy and of its content. Parents and carers should work in partnership with school to support students who self-harm. Pupils need to be aware that they can be confident any disclosure of sensitive information will be supported and dealt with efficiently and sensitively.

The policy should be reviewed and reference to other policies, whether they be other mental health issues such as eating disorders or policies such as child protection, behaviour, health and safety and special educational needs available as reference.