



Wellbeing Policy

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1. The vision for our school:

Lark Hill Nursery School is working to adopt the principles set out in Stockport's Strategy for Improving Wellbeing in Education Settings.

Lark Hill Nursery School has completed the self-assessment template that accompanies the Wellbeing Strategy and this policy sets out how Lark Hill Nursery School will implement this work. We recognise that the relationships based philosophy of Restorative Approaches within our setting will support and complement the following vision.

The vision for Lark Hill Nursery School is that:

- Our children will be emotionally intelligent and emotionally resilient, equipped with the skills they need to grow and thrive.
- Our children will know when and where to go for support when faced with challenges and will be able to access that support when it is needed.
- Our children will be supported to lead happy, healthy and fulfilling lives.
- Our parents and carers will be given the skills and knowledge to understand and respond to the difficulties children face and we will ensure that information, advice and support is readily available to them.
- Our staff team will be supported to protect and improve their own emotional wellbeing and will be equipped to identify and respond to low levels of emotional wellbeing in young people, parents and carers and fellow staff members.

2. Definition of Wellbeing:

Emotional wellbeing is not simply the absence of mental illness but is a broader indicator of social, emotional and physical wellness. It reflects the interconnection of mind and body - physical health and mental health - and is concerned with the functioning of the whole person and the extent to which basic fundamental needs are met. It is influenced by the wider contexts within which a child or adult lives and the interaction between the individual, family, school / work and community.

NICE sets out the following definition in its guidance on Social and Emotional Wellbeing for Children and Young People:

Wellbeing means:

- *Being happy and confident and not anxious or depressed*
- *Having the ability to problem-solve, manage emotions, experience empathy, being resilient and attentive*
- *Having good relationships with others and not having behavioural problems – that is, not being disruptive, violent or a bully.*

Wellbeing also includes:

- *Having a sense of meaning or purpose*
- *Being successful / having a sense of achievement*
- *Having a sense of control*
- *Giving and receiving attention and being validated*

3. What this policy demonstrates:

This policy sets out how Lark Hill Nursery School will enable children, staff and parents to 'thrive' by:

- Enabling people to become emotionally healthy, confident and resilient
- Reducing risk taking behaviour and minimising harm
- Giving people the knowledge and skills to seek out support

This policy sets out how Lark Hill Nursery School will support children, staff and parents to 'cope' by:

- Offering a range of self-help materials and signposting to services, as needed
- Promoting a safe, nurturing environment and positive behaviours
- Offering one-off / short term support from pastoral staff
- Utilising training and programmes offered in Stockport, e.g. Living Life to the Full, the Emotional Wellbeing Toolkit, Seasons for Growth

This policy sets out how Lark Hill Nursery School will support children, staff and parents to 'get help' by:

- Providing access to in-setting support, such as school nursing and in-house counselling
- Signposting staff and parents to services as appropriate + referring staff to counselling / therapy services as appropriate
- Refer families to our Start Well Coordinator who can liaise with the family to identify any support that they need

This policy sets out how Lark Hill Nursery School will support pupils to 'get more help' and / or 'get risk support' by:

- Supporting children to access specialist services as required
- Supporting children to reintegrate into their setting's population after times of illness / attendance at alternative educational provision
- Having clear referral pathways with specialist services
- Having clear safeguarding and recording procedures in place and having effective systems for liaising with specialist services, children and parents.

4. Lark Hill Nursery School is a school where children, parents / carers and staff thrive

Whole School Community

- The school's Senior Leadership Team provide clear leadership around emotional wellbeing.
- There is a recognition that 'working with' each other, challenging and supporting each other in equal measure over time is the best way to thrive.
- Support for wellbeing is an on-going priority with explicit activities to develop wellbeing for all on the School Development Plan.
- The school has a designated lead for emotional wellbeing and a named governor for wellbeing (Jo O'Raw, Headteacher and Emma Harris, Well-being Governor). However, promotion of wellbeing remains the responsibility of all staff.
- All staff are aware of this policy and how it links with other related policies, including Safeguarding, Anti-Bullying, Behaviour, Relationships, SEN.
- School pupils, parents, carers and staff are aware of the named lead and named governor and know how to contact them.
- Lark Hill Nursery School fosters an ethos that promotes mutual respect, learning and successful relationships among young people, parents and carers and staff. This is measured through annual surveys and the results are shared with children, parents and staff. .
- Lark Hill Nursery School uses the information from these surveys, from other school data and from information gained from Stockport's wellbeing services (e.g. Checkpoint, PSHE network etc.) to develop a school environment that promotes wellbeing and resilience and minimises harmful or risk taking behaviour.

Children

- Lark Hill Nursery School provides a broad and balanced curriculum, which includes teaching social and emotional skills such as problem solving, coping, conflict resolution, managing feelings and relationships and developing resilience - both on and offline.
- Lark Hill Nursery School has a listening culture which promotes supportive relationships by way of explicit activities such as group times
- Lark Hill Nursery School is developing Restorative Approaches and meets the needs of all children.

- Lark Hill Nursery School has information on its website about wellbeing – what it is and offers simple tools to support young people to improve their wellbeing

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Parents and Carers

- Lark Hill Nursery School has information on its website and provides regular updates through Tapestry on wellbeing. Parents are made aware of the Five Ways to Wellbeing and how this is explained to children.
- There is a variety of ways to include parents so that inclusion in school life is accessible to all.
- Our parents and carers know who they can contact in school if they have any concerns and know that their concerns will be acted upon.
- Parents are made aware of the Stockport Local Offer, so they can easily find out details of the support available in the borough for children and young people with additional needs.

Staff

- Lark Hill Nursery School has interaction between staff that discuss wellbeing and has a clear procedure for communicating information to its whole staff team (emails, staff whatsapp and Facebook page and staff meetings and INSET days).
- Staff are given time to reflect on their role and are given opportunities to voice opinions and feel listened to in a supportive and restorative way.
- Staff are encouraged to, and given the opportunity to, complete online wellbeing training on the MindEd website.
- The school's designated wellbeing lead has regular opportunities to relay information on wellbeing work across the borough to the whole staff team.
- Staff wellbeing is a high priority in our school. All staff have access to the Stockport Staff Wellbeing booklet; the Five Ways to Wellbeing are promoted throughout the school and there is a staff noticeboard to highlight wellbeing services and opportunities.
- Our school Senior Leadership Team lead by example in demonstrating a good work/life balance and encourage our staff to do the same.

- 5. Lark Hill Nursery School is a school where children, parents / carers and staff are able to 'cope' through having easy access to short-term / one-off support where needed**

Children

- Lark Hill Nursery School knows its school community and regularly monitors the number and progress of pupils who are part of a vulnerable group. This monitoring takes place half termly and is discussed regularly by the Senior Leadership Team (The HT and DHT have half termly strategy meetings)
- Lark Hill Nursery School uses restorative approaches and circle time as a way of supporting both the whole school community and children who have been identified as vulnerable. The school also uses restorative approaches in staff meetings and as a way of providing peer support to staff members.

Staff

- The school provides staff with opportunities to improve their wellbeing [such as providing opportunities for physical activity, relaxation skills etc.
- The school is mindful of the timings and frequency of staff meetings, in order to promote both effective working and a healthy work-life balance. We now have one staff meeting a half term which is focused on achieving something significant. Staff can take their development time at home.
- Staff are made aware of the Stockport Staff Counselling Service and know how to access it if required. Staff are also made aware of the wellbeing / support services in the borough and how to access them.

- 6. Lark Hill Nursery School is a school where pupils and staff are able to 'get help' through having access to in-house support and being referred on to other services as appropriate.**

Children

- Our school makes appropriate use of the services available to us through statutory and buy-back procedures.
There are clear processes for making referrals to the Start Well Coordinator and Health Visitor through the Team around the Early Years
The emotional wellbeing lead / team provide guidance and support to the staff team around this.
- Where there is more than one need identified for a child / family, the school will consider carrying out an Early Help Assessment / contacting the MASSH for support. The school will use the Team Around the School and its Start Well Coordinator for support.

- Our school regularly considers the needs of its children – in particular those in vulnerable groups such as Looked After children, young carers and those who have been through adverse childhood experiences.

Staff

- Our staff are supported by the Senior Leadership Team – who, in turn, are supported by the Governing Body, to access help and support when needed.
- Staff are given access to supervision and support when needed both in school and through accessing outside services.

7. Lark Hill Nursery School is a school where pupils are able to ‘get more help and risk support’ where needed

- Whilst Lark Hill Nursery School will always try to help children within the school setting, in some circumstances, pupils will need additional, specialist support from outside agencies.

Lark Hill Nursery School has clear referral procedures and pathways in place.

- Lark Hill Nursery School will complete Early Help Assessments as required and will work in partnership with other agencies, e.g. in Team Around the Child meetings.
- Our school has rigorous safeguarding procedures that align with all guidance produced by Stockport’s Safeguarding Children Board. Notes of Concern are completed by staff and are regularly reviewed by the [SLT / DSL.]
- Where children are hospitalised / temporarily out of school due to a mental health related concern, the school will refer to the Home and Hospital Teaching Service in partnership and under the instruction of the child/young person’s consultant psychiatrist/psychologist responsible for their treatment plan. This is a time limited intervention for those who will be absent from school for more than 15 school days

8. Monitoring and Reviewing

The head teacher is responsible for reporting to the governing body on how this policy is being implemented. The governors are in turn responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of the policy via the termly report and by in-school monitoring such as learning walks and focus groups with pupils.

The policy is reviewed every 12 months, in consultation with the whole school community including staff, children, parents, carers and governors.