



Willow Grove Primary School

The Policy for the Support of Pupils Exhibiting Self-Injuring Behaviours

Statement of intent.

This policy sets out clear guidelines on the school's procedure for supporting children who self-harm whilst in school. The policy is to ensure on-going support for parents/carers and staff. It is consistent with the school's overall values.

This policy should be viewed in conjunction with:

- The Self-injury Protocol for Willow Grove
- The Relationship Support for Personal Development Policy.
- The Local Authorities current Safeguarding Children's Policy.

This Policy was created using guidance from Bild – British Institute for Learning Disabilities.

What is defined as Self-harm?

Self-harm is a term used when someone injures or harms himself or herself on purpose (also called self-injury) rather than by accident. Common examples include cutting, head banging, hitting, scratching or burning. Further examples can be found in the Relationship Support for Personal Development Policy.

Attempted suicide is the most serious form of self-harm.

How will Willow Grove help to support pupils with self-harm difficulties?

Willow Grove School will name key people within school to oversee the support of any child who uses self-harming behaviour. These people will be identified dependant on the key adults who are currently supporting the child and will always involve a member of SLT on the supporting team as well. These staff will make themselves available to listen to the child and to the families who may have concerns related to this emotional behaviour. There will be longer term actions that are likely to involve individual work with the child concerned, programs of work within the school curriculum related to emotional resilience and self-esteem, medication reviews if appropriate, joint work with other agencies and referral to external agencies.

The key staff will also put in place a chain of actions to support the child that are external to those on offer within school. All the staff within the school will be aware of the School Protocol for Self-injury and will have a responsibility to report all incidents to the named people in school.

Willow Grove are also aware of the impact that supporting and observing self-injuring behaviours can have on the staff involved in working with the child. These staff will be emotionally and mentally supported with the offer of both internal and external support mechanisms. This may involve time with SLT, peer support through discussion, clinical supervision, referral to an appropriate Counselling offer or time with the school CAMHS link worker.



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How will the school respond to any incidents of self-harm?

- The first, immediate response will be to ensure the child is safe and is in no imminent danger from further self-harming behaviours.
- The Protocol for Self-harm will be followed and SLT and a First Aider will be called to the incident. The SLT and First Aider will make an assessment of the situation and the due actions will be taken in accordance with the protocol.
- Physical intervention will be considered, but only if the dynamic risk assessment believes that further significant harm will happen if no intervention is used.
- All other school offers such as change of face, sensory support and change of environment will be considered and offered as appropriate.
- Parents or carers will be informed by a member of the SLT as soon as is practicably possible after the incident.
- The welfare of the child is paramount and they will be monitored for the rest of the school day.
- A Safeguarding Cause for Concern form will be completed on the Behaviour Watch System by the reporting member of staff and will be handed to the Head Teacher by the end of the same working day.
- The SLT will ensure that all necessary agencies are involved in the longer term plan for the staff, child and family.