

Health and Wellbeing Policy

Policy Owner	Camden National Education Union
Approving Body	Brecknock Governor Body
Date Approved	
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 As the employer of staff in Brecknock Primary School, the Governing Body recognises the statutory responsibilities related to employment. Day-to-day management of staff is delegated to the Executive Headteacher, Head of School and line managers in Brecknock Primary School. Throughout this document, reference is made to the responsibilities held by the Executive Headteacher for operational purposes. Ultimate responsibility rests with the Governing Body.
- 1.2 Brecknock Primary School and the Governing Body of Brecknock Primary School are committed to promoting positive mental, physical and emotional wellbeing and will provide suitable support for all members of staff. Taking action to prevent ill health and promote good health makes good educational and business sense, as sickness absence carries high costs both in monetary terms and in terms of the impact upon performance, teaching and learning, morale and productivity, which may disrupt or compromise student progress.
- 1.3 Members of the teaching and non-teaching staff are entitled to be treated fairly and professionally at all times. The Governing Body of Brecknock Primary School takes very seriously its duty of care as an employer to all members of staff and a number of policies and procedures have been made in relation to this duty.

These include:

- Sickness Absence Management Policy and Procedure;
- Discretionary Leave of Absence Policy;
- Health and Safety Policy;
- Anti-Racism Policy;
- Equality Policy;
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Staff Grievance Policy and Procedure;
- Whistleblowing Policy.

Other policies contribute to staff wellbeing by providing certainty, fairness and consistency in the treatment of staff in different contexts, including:

- Teacher's Pay Policy;
- Appraisal Policies for Teaching and Support Staff;
- Capability of Staff;
- School Complaints Policy;
- Acceptable Use Policy;
- Behaviour Policy;
- Home-School Agreement;
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy;
- Alcohol/Drug Abuse Policy.

- 1.4 The Governing Body recognizes the importance of workplace unions in promoting and maintaining a positive health and wellbeing environment.

2. Who This Policy Applies To

- 2.1 This policy will apply to all employees working in Brecknock Primary School.

3. Aims

- 3.1 This policy aims to:

- 3.1.1 Provide a working environment which enables staff to work in an environment in which staff wellbeing is supported and which enables staff to carry out their duties effectively.
- 3.1.2 Recognise the key role of the Executive Headteacher/Head of School/ Senior Leaders/Line Managers for their responsibilities by enabling access to guidance, training and support.
- 3.1.3 Encourage and support staff as individuals to accept responsibility for their own mental, physical and emotional wellbeing.
- 3.1.4 Comply with all statutory requirements.
- 3.1.5 Develop and maintain a positive health and safety culture through regular communication and consultation with staff and their trade union representatives on health and safety matters.
- 3.1.6 Develop and support through training an open culture in which mental, physical and emotional wellbeing is taken seriously and in which staff are supported in order that they may seek any help and support they need.
- 3.1.7 Ensure that all staff are aware of the policy through regular promotion on staff notice boards and electronic systems.

- 3.1.8 Identify the hazards that could lead to poor staff health and wellbeing and reduce these where possible.

4. Legislation

4.1 Pieces of legislation that will be considered when promoting positive mental, physical and emotional wellbeing, including, but not exclusively:

- The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974;
- The Equality Act 2010;
- Working Time Regulations;
- Employment Rights Act 1996;
- Employment Relations Act 1999.

5. Responsibilities

5.1 **Camden HR will:**

5.1.1 Provide the necessary professional advice, support and training to the Governing Body and all school staff as and when required.

5.1.2 Assist with the referral of staff to Occupational Health, Counselling or mediation when appropriate.

5.1.3 Assist in the formulation of return-to-work programmes and provide advice on the implementation of statutory requirements.

5.2 **The Governing Body will:**

5.2.1 Ensure this policy is implemented and procedures are in place that recognise and deal with the issue of common mental and physical health problems, which will include: consideration of organisation of work; health risk assessment where appropriate; early recognition for staff with common mental and physical health problems (which may require training); and interventions that include short-term rehabilitation and return-to-work plans and longer-term reasonable adjustments.

5.2.2 Actively demonstrate recognition and acceptance of common mental and physical health problems by creating an environment where staff feel comfortable in asking for help.

- 5.2.3 Act early and provide consistent support.
- 5.2.4 Enlist the support of Brecknock Primary School's HR function and Occupational Health, when appropriate, and ensure staff are able to access this support.
- 5.2.5 Ensure that staff roles and responsibilities are clearly defined.
- 5.2.6 Attend regular training on health and wellbeing in schools.
- 5.2.7 Work proactively to drive down unnecessary staff workload.
- 5.2.7 Ensure that all of Brecknock Primary School's policies are assessed for workload impact.
- 5.2.8 Take into account the equality implications of any policies introduced and monitor on a regular basis.
- 5.2.9 Develop a wellbeing strategy, in consultation with the workplace unions, to include a provision of benefits offered to staff.
- 5.2.10 ***Ensure that staff wellbeing is a standing item on the agenda of the Resources Committee.***
- 5.2.11 Provide opportunities for staff to participate in free annual health checks and vaccinations, should they so desire.
- 5.2.12 Ensure the policy is monitored, evaluated and reviewed with the recognised workplace unions on an annual basis, in the light of changing needs and legislative frameworks.

5.3 The Executive Headteacher and Head of School will:

- 5.3.1 Recognise the value of good management practice with systems in place to effectively manage staff and encourage a partnership approach with staff, workplace unions and the Brecknock Primary School's health and safety committee.
- 5.3.2 Foster a supportive work environment, operating in a fair and consistent manner.

- 5.3.3 Consider whether all staff need to be on-site at all times if they are not directly engaged in supervising children.
- 5.3.4 Consider how communications, particularly electronic communications, can have a detrimental effect on staff's work-life balance and wellbeing and ensure that there are agreed procedures in place to address this.
- 5.3.5 Ensure that all staff and pupils have a shared understanding of how good behaviour is encouraged and rewarded, and how sanctions will be imposed if pupils misbehave. They will support staff to create calm, safe and disciplined environments, which allow teachers to teach and pupils to learn. This approach will go hand-in-hand with understanding and supporting pupil mental health issues.
- 5.3.6 Support staff to progress in their careers by ensuring that all staff are able to pursue professional development without adversely impacting their own or other people's workload.
- 5.3.7 Promote a healthy workplace and practices that ensure that members of staff are able to develop a healthy mind.
- 5.3.8 Pay attention to any indication of changes in performance or behaviour in staff and promote sympathetic alertness to staff who show signs of being under stress.
- 5.3.9 Understand the differing needs of staff, at different points and events during their life cycles, and offer support accordingly, if and when required. This may include support for pregnant women, older women during the menopause, and those with caring responsibilities.
- 5.3.10 Follow agreed procedures when there are concerns or absence due to work related stress and other mental-health problems.
- 5.3.11 Ensure that the return-to-work process is clearly explained to staff during the first whole staff meeting of the academic year and that it is supportive of staff both while absent and upon return to work.
- 5.3.12 Carry out a risk assessment, where necessary, and especially when concerns have been raised, as soon as possible.

- 5.3.13 Ensure that all staff have access to regular training sessions on health and wellbeing in schools, including practical sessions to deal with mental, physical and emotional wellbeing issues, and that they are given the appropriate time and resources to undertake this.
- 5.3.14 Carefully plan and agree work-life balance solutions including flexible working practices where possible and appropriate.
- 5.3.15 Demonstrate commitment, via systems and practices in place in Brecknock Primary School, to employees maintaining a good work/life balance, and ensure that such practices are communicated to all staff.
- 5.3.16 Manage pressures which may affect staff, including the impact of workload pressures, and anticipate likely problems, taking action to reduce the effects of these pressures where possible.
- 5.3.17 In consultation with staff and workplace unions, agree the best ways to implement this policy in **Brecknock Primary School** with a commitment to regularly review practice, as per the Department of Education's 'Education Staff Well-Being Charter' November 2021. Time to consult with staff should be found within existing directed time sessions.

5.4 Senior Leaders/Line Managers shall:

- 5.4.1 Foster a supportive work environment, operating in a fair and consistent manner.
- 5.4.2 Pay attention to any indication of changes in performance or behaviour in staff and promote sympathetic alertness to staff who show signs of being under stress.
- 5.4.3 Follow agreed procedures when there are concerns or absence due to work-related stress and other mental health problems.
- 5.4.4 Ensure that the return-to-work process is clearly explained to staff during line-management meetings and that it is supportive of staff both while absent and upon return to work.
- 5.4.5 Carry out or support carrying out a risk assessment, where necessary, and especially when concerns have been raised, as soon as possible.
- 5.4.6 Attend regular training on health and wellbeing in schools.

5.4.7 Communicate work-life balance practices to all staff and manage pressures which may affect staff and anticipate likely problems, taking action to reduce the effects of these pressures where possible.

5.4.8 Demonstrate commitment to staff by encouraging a good work/life balance.

5.5 Staff should:

5.5.1 Seek support or help when they think they are experiencing a problem, if possible, to a clearly identified line manager or named individual.

5.5.2 Act in a manner that respects the health and safety needs of themselves or others whilst in the workplace.

5.5.3 Consider wellbeing support mechanisms offered by Brecknock Primary School; e.g. counselling.

5.5.4 Consider attending training on health and wellbeing issues where they feel that this is appropriate. This training will be recognised by the school as valuable CPD.

5.5.5 Where possible, be watchful of any indication of changes of behaviour in colleagues and promote sympathetic alertness to colleagues who show signs of stress.

6. Support Mechanisms

6.1 Counselling

6.1.1 Counselling can be provided where appropriate through the Brecknock Primary School's provider. This will be a confidential, independent service using professionally qualified counsellors.

6.1.2 Staff can access the Counselling Service by contacting the Employee Assistance Programme.

6.1.3 Those staff whose roles require them to deal routinely with child

safeguarding issues will be provided with regular professional supervision.

6.2 Teacher Support Network

6.2.1 The Teacher Support Network is a group of independent charities and a social enterprise that provides practical and emotional support to staff in the education sector and their families.

Information, support and coaching is offered to all staff. The Teacher Support Network provides over 1000 factsheets covering a wide range of issues including money advice, how to cope with bereavement, mental health, diet and nutrition and how to manage stress. To access the free support line, staff can call 08000 562 561, or for more information go to

<http://teachersupport.info/>

6.3 Occupational Health

6.3.1 Via the Local Authority, the school has access to the Merigold-Health Occupational Health provider. This will enable an employee to discuss any concerns about their health and wellbeing with a nurse or doctor trained in occupational medicine. This is an opportunity to discuss any health condition and get feedback about managing or improving that condition to help an employee to carry out their duties or return to work. The information given is entirely confidential and will not be shared with the Governing Body or members of staff within Brecknock Primary School.

Appendix 1

Useful Websites

Acas www.acas.org.uk

Information on stress, and employer and employee rights, in the workplace

Alcoholics Anonymous www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk

Fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other to recover from alcoholism.

Carers UK www.carersuk.org

The voice of carers

CBI www.cbi.org.uk

Guidance to businesses on managing stress at work

Department of Health www.gov.uk/government/organisation/department-of-health

Information on dealing with stress and mental health problems, including the use of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT)

Dignity at Work Partnership www.dignityatwork.org

Information and guidance on bullying in the workplace

The Equality and Human Rights Commission www.equalityhumanrights.com

The commission is working to eliminate discrimination, reduce inequality, protect human rights and to build good relations, ensuring that everyone has a fair chance to participate in society.

Gingerbread www.gingerbread.org.uk

Gingerbread and One Parent Families have now merged to provide better support and a bigger voice to 1.8 million lone parents and their children throughout England and Wales.

HSE <http://www.hse.gov.uk/stress/standards/>

Information on the stress management standards

Local Government Employers www.local.gov.uk

Guidance for all councils on stress prevention and management

Mindful Employer www.mindfulemployer.net

Information and guidance on managing stress and mental health in the workplace

NHS 111 <http://www.nhs.uk/111>

National Health Service advice and guidance on health matters

Princess Royal Trust for Carers <http://www.carers.org>

Here to improve carers' lives by fighting for equality and recognition for carers.

Relate <http://www.relate.org.uk>

UK's largest provider of relationship counselling and sex therapy.

Samaritans <http://www.samaritans.org>

Offers confidential, non-judgemental support to individuals.

Teacher Support Network

<http://teachersupport.info>

Work Life Balance Centre <http://www.worklifebalancecentre.org>

Exists to help people restore control over their workload and working lives we enable them to cut down overworking and so make new decisions about how they spend their time.

World Health Organisation http://www.who.int/occupational_health/publications/en/oehstress.pdf Publication on work organisation and stress

Version Control Table

Version	Changes	Author	Date
1.0	Final version – approved by Schools Full Governing Body		
1.1	Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none">All references to Headteacher changed to Executive Headteacher	ML	March 2022