



# THE Boswells SCHOOL

A member of the Chelmsford Learning Partnership

## SUICIDE SAFETY POLICY

The Boswells School is aware that Suicide is the leading cause of death in young people

<b>Responsible</b>	Local Governing Body
<b>Lead Staff Member</b>	Deputy Headteacher (Behaviour Welfare and Safety)
<b>Approved by</b>	Local Governing Body
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<b>Version</b>	2
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## **The Boswells School Suicide Safety Policy**

### **Statement of Purpose:**

The Boswells School is aware that:

- i) Suicide is the leading cause of death in young people
- ii) We play a vital role in helping to prevent young suicide
- iii) We want to make sure that students at The Boswells School are as suicide safe as possible and that our Trustees, parents and carers, teaching staff, support staff and the students themselves are aware of our commitment to be a suicide safer school

### **Our Beliefs about suicide:**

The Boswells School acknowledges that:

- i) Suicidal thoughts are common
- ii) Suicide is complex
- iii) Stigma inhibits learning and we are committed to tackling suicide stigma
- iv) Suicide is The Boswells Schools concern - we recognise that students may seek out someone whom they trust with their concerns and worries
- v) Safety is very important – we wish to work in partnership with parents / carers and external agencies to enhance suicide safety
- vi) Suicide is a difficult thing to talk about – through training we will equip adults with the skills to identify when a student may be struggling with suicidal thoughts
- vii) Suicide Safety training will form part of the training for new staff
- viii) Talking about suicide does not create or worsen the risk – we will provide opportunities for our students to speak openly about their worries with people who are ready and able to support them

### **Person Centred Suicide Intervention Policy:**

- i) The Boswells School has a named individual who is responsible for the design, implementation and maintenance of the policy (Deputy Headteacher, Behaviour Welfare and Safety)
- ii) The Boswells School who has a Suicide Intervention Team who are the point of escalation for any concerns about a student. They will keep confidential records to ensure continuity of care
- iii) We will endeavour to ensure that our staff are suicide aware and ensure suicide awareness training is revisited in the CPD Schedule
- iv) We will ensure that students are suicide aware through an annual programme of awareness-raising events which includes how to spot signs, what to do and how to escalate concerns to the Suicide Intervention Team. Wellbeing and suicide awareness is part of the RSE curriculum revised in September 2020
- v) We will do our best to enhance the physical safety of our environment including the removal of potential ligature points, restricting access to places which facilitate jumping and securely storing harmful substances
- vi) We recognise the need to protect someone's life must be balanced against the need to protect their confidentiality

- vii) When we identify a student at risk of suicide we will engage external support and communicate with the parents/ carers

### **Postvention Provision:**

- i) The Boswells School has a Postvention Team whose role it is to respond in the event of a suicide
- ii) We will offer support services to staff, students and the wider community affected by a death by suicide

### **Commitment to Appropriate Language:**

The Boswells School will encourage staff (through training) to use a common language to help achieve their aims:

Terms not accepted;

- 'Commit suicide' – suggests it is still a crime (outlawed 1961)
- 'Successful suicide' – death is never a success
- 'Unsuccessful suicide attempt' – reinforce feelings of failure
- 'It's not that serious' – all suicide attempts are a risk to life
- 'Attention Seeking' – Young people who attempt suicide do need attention, support, help
- 'Just a cry for help' – Belittles someone's need for help
- 'You are not thinking of doing something stupid are you?' – Makes the child feel silly and therefore you become someone not safe to talk to

Terms to be used;

- "Ended their life"
- "Killed themselves"
- "Took their own life"
- "Died by suicide"
- "Suicided"