



WINDERMERE SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1863

SUICIDE STATEMENT

This statement is applicable to all pupils, including those in the Early Years Foundation Stage.

This statement has been written following the guidance from Papyrus - <https://papyrus-uk.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/toolkitfinal.pdf>

This statement is available to all parents on our school website www.windermereschool.co.uk or as a hard copy from the school offices.

SUICIDE: STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

PAPYRUS recommends that schools and colleges have a statement which is known by the whole community and which enshrines a strong commitment to suicide prevention.

At Windermere School, we are 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.*

We want to make sure that children and young people at Windermere School are as suicide safe as possible and that our governors, parents and carers, teaching staff, support staff, pupils themselves and other key stakeholders are aware of our commitment to be a suicide-safer school.

Windermere School believes that suicide prevention is everybody's business and that all can play a role in preventing young suicide.

At Windermere School this includes:

- Governors
- Senior Leadership Team
- All Teaching staff
- Boarding staff
- Parents and Guardians
- Counsellors
- Pastoral and Wellbeing staff
- Administrators
- Grounds and Maintenance staff
- Catering staff
- Young people as peer supporters/mentors

Each of these groups can make a unique contribution to suicide prevention.

Our Beliefs about Suicide and its Antecedents

Windermere School acknowledges that:

- **SUICIDAL THOUGHTS ARE COMMON**
 - We acknowledge that thoughts of suicide are common among young people.
- **SUICIDE IS COMPLEX**
 - We believe that every suicide is a tragedy. There are a number of contributory factors surrounding a suicide and the reasons are often complex and individual to that person. However, we believe that there are lessons that may be learned from each death that may help prevent future deaths.
- **STIGMA INHIBITS LEARNING – STIGMA CAN KILL**
 - We recognise that the stigma surrounding suicide and mental illness can be both a barrier to seeking help and a barrier to offering help. Windermere School is committed to tackling suicide stigma. In our language and in our working relationships, we will promote open, sensitive talk that does not stigmatise and perpetuate taboos. This will include avoiding the use of language which perpetuates unhelpful notions that suicide is criminal, sinful or selfish. We know that unhelpful myths and misconceptions surrounding suicide can inhibit young people in seeking and finding appropriate help when it is most needed.
- **SUICIDE IS OUR BUSINESS, TOO**
 - As a school, we recognise that pupils may seek out someone whom they trust with their concerns and worries. We want to play our part in supporting any pupil who may have thoughts of suicide.
- **SAFETY IS VERY IMPORTANT**
 - We know that pupils who are having thoughts of suicide may or may not also be behaving in a way that puts their life in danger (suicide behaviours). Students experiencing suicidal thoughts are potentially at risk of acting on these thoughts. Those who are already engaging in suicide behaviours are also clearly at risk of death or harm. Windermere School wants to work with our pupils who may be thinking about suicide, or acting on their thoughts of suicide. We want to support them, sometimes working in partnership with family, caregivers and other professionals where this may enhance suicide safety.
- **SUICIDE IS A DIFFICULT THING TO TALK ABOUT**
 - We know that a child or young person who is suicidal may find it very difficult to make their feelings known and speak openly about suicide. We will equip adults with the skills to identify when a pupil may be struggling with thoughts of suicide. These adults will be trained to keep our young people suicide-safe.
- **TALKING ABOUT SUICIDE DOES NOT CREATE OR WORSEN RISK**
 - We will provide our pupils with opportunities to speak openly about their worries with people who are ready, willing and able to support them. We want to make it possible for students, and those who support them at Windermere School, to do so safely. This will be in a way that leads to support and help where this is needed. We will do all we can to refrain from acting in a way that stops a pupil seeking the help they need when they are struggling with **Our**

Team and its Responsibilities

- Our Governors and Senior Leadership Team will be clear about how we will respond in the event of a suicide. Each member of our named response team will have a defined responsibility within our plan including leadership, family liaison and any communications with external agencies, including the media.
- We will have a clear picture of who has received general suicide awareness education and commit to this being refreshed periodically (at least every three years).
- We will identify a team of people who are trained in Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST). This team will be drawn from across the whole school community, not just from one department.
- We will have a clear policy about how staff should work together where thoughts of suicide or suicide behaviours are known among our young people. We will manage the sharing of information in a way that enhances safety.

Ongoing Support and Development of our Practice

- Our Governors and Senior Leadership Team will keep our practice up to date by maintaining contact with best practice and on-going training.

Appendix

Guidance

- **Suicide prevention: developing a local action plan**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/suicide-preventiondeveloping-a-local-action-plan> 25 October 2016 Guidance
- **Preventing suicide: lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans young people**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-suicidelesbian-gay-and-bisexual-young-people> 13 March 2015 Guidance
- **Suicide prevention: identifying and responding to suicide clusters**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/suicide-preventionidentifying-and-responding-to-suicide-clusters> 10 September 2015 Guidance
- **Suicide prevention: suicides in public places**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/suicide-preventionsuicides-in-public-places> 1 December 2015 Guidance
- **Support after a suicide: a guide to providing local services**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/support-after-asuicide-a-guide-to-providing-local-services> 9 January 2017 Guidance

Policy

- **Suicide prevention strategy for England**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/suicide-preventionstrategy-for-england> 10 September 2012 Policy paper
- **Suicide prevention: third annual report**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/suicide-preventionthird-annual-report> 9 January 2017 Policy paper