



Trauma Informed School

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We Cann...

Together, we aspire to create a nurturing school community by being aspirational, learner focused, collaborative and progressive.

We develop each learner's communication and independence through their school journey to prepare them for the wider world through creative and personalised learning, actively contributing to society, leading to healthy and fulfilled lives.

Together, 'We Cann...' be

- Aspirational**
- Learner Focused**
- Collaborative**
- Progressive**

Trauma

Trauma results from an event, series of events, or set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual as harmful or life threatening. While unique to the individual, generally the experience of trauma can cause lasting adverse effects, limiting the ability to function and achieve mental, physical, social, emotional or spiritual well-being.

Definition of trauma informed practice

Trauma-informed practice is an approach to health and care interventions which is grounded in the understanding that trauma exposure can impact an individual's neurological, biological, psychological and social development.

Intent

Cann Bridge School is committed to fostering a nurturing and respectful school community that prioritises the well-being of its learners and staff. To achieve this, we endeavour to develop and embed a Trauma-Informed approach across all aspects of our operations. This policy outlines our commitment to implementing Trauma-Informed practices and principles to support the holistic growth and development of our learners.

Key Principles of Trauma-Informed Practice

At Cann Bridge School, we adhere to the following six principles of Trauma-Informed practice:

- **Safety:** We prioritise the physical, psychological, and emotional safety of our learners and staff by creating an environment where individuals feel secure, supported, and free from harm.
- **Trust:** We build trust among our school community by maintaining transparency in our policies, procedures, and actions, and by consistently delivering on our commitments.
- **Choice:** We empower learners by involving them in decision-making processes, respecting their preferences and autonomy, and providing them with opportunities to make choices that contribute to their healing and growth.
- **Collaboration:** We recognise the value of collaboration and peer support in overcoming challenges and improving our systems. We actively involve learners, staff, and families in decision-making processes and seek their input in shaping our practices.
- **Empowerment:** We strive to empower learners and staff by validating their experiences, supporting their decision-making autonomy, and fostering a sense of agency and self-worth.
- **Cultural Consideration:** We acknowledge and respect the diverse cultural backgrounds and identities of our learners and staff. We ensure that our policies, protocols, and practices are responsive to the unique needs and preferences of individuals from all cultural backgrounds.

Implementation

To effectively implement Trauma-Informed practices at Cann Bridge School, we undertake the following actions:

- **Staff Training and Development:** All staff undergo induction training, including Positive Behaviour Support, Safeguarding, and Safe Touch & Intimate Care. This training provides staff with a comprehensive understanding of Trauma-Informed practices, risk management, and the importance of language and least restrictive interventions. Additionally, ongoing support services, such as access to physiotherapy, mental health, and well-being support, are provided through the SAS program.
- **Communication and Transparency:** We prioritise transparent communication with learners, staff, and families through various channels, including school newsletters, home-school communication books, staff surveys, and regular meetings. The school council serves as a platform for amplifying pupil voices and involving them in decision-making processes.
- **Shared Decision-Making:** Learners are encouraged to participate in shared decision-making processes, goal setting, and choice-making to empower them in their educational journey. The school council and total communication approach support learners in expressing their needs, preferences, and feelings.
- **Collaborative Support Services:** We collaborate with external agencies, therapists, and other stakeholders to provide tailored support and interventions for learners. Behaviour Hubs and personalised behaviour management strategies are developed collaboratively to address the individual needs of learners.
- **Empowerment Initiatives:** Initiatives such as emotions boards, CPI training focusing on trauma-informed approaches, and house point systems are implemented to empower learners and staff, validate their experiences, and promote positive engagement and relationships.
- **Cultural Sensitivity:** We ensure cultural sensitivity by appointing staff members qualified in supporting pupils from diverse ethnic backgrounds and accommodating religious practices and beliefs. Additionally, debrief sessions and regular discussions promote a culturally responsive and inclusive learning environment.

Impact

The embedding of Trauma-Informed practices at Cann Bridge School has had a profoundly positive impact on our school community. By prioritising the safety, well-being, and empowerment of both learners and staff, we have created an environment where individuals feel secure, supported, and free to express themselves. Through transparent communication, shared decision-making processes, and collaborative support services, we have fostered a culture of trust, respect, and inclusivity. Initiatives such as staff training and development, empowerment initiatives, and cultural sensitivity awareness have further strengthened our commitment to Trauma-Informed practices. As a result, our learners are more engaged, confident, and resilient, while our staff feel supported, valued, and equipped to meet the diverse needs of our community. Through ongoing monitoring and review, we are dedicated to continuously improving and refining our Trauma-Informed approach to ensure that Cann Bridge School remains a place where every individual feels valued, supported, and empowered to thrive.

Monitoring and Review

The implementation of Trauma-Informed practices will be monitored and reviewed regularly to assess effectiveness and identify areas for improvement we will achieve this by gathering staff feedback, scrutinizing learners assessment data and the behaviour lead will use data from CPOMS to monitor any changes in overall recorded behaviours.

The trauma informed team will work collaboratively with other local special schools and will continue their research to ensure they are up to date on trauma informed approaches.

SLT will quality assure by carrying out half termly behaviour walks with a trauma informed focus to monitor and review the practice of staff and the implementation of trauma informed practice being used broadly across the school recognising the emerging shift in school culture allowing opportunity for professional challenge and development.