

Self Harm Policy

RATIONALE

We, in St. Cecilia's, have a primary responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of the pupils in our charge, which we will carry out through our Self Harm policy, as part of the school's Pastoral Care policy which aims to provide a safe and supportive environment for all our pupils.

AIMS

- To ensure that a child's welfare is safe guarded and her safety preserved.
- To ensure a child is made aware of available supportive agencies
- To ensure a child is equipped with appropriate and safe coping strategies
- To ensure that a child's physical and mental health requirements are met

PROCEDURES

Where the school has concerns, or has been given information about a pupil who is self harming:

- The concern is brought to the attention of the Designated Teacher for Child Protection (Miss O'Sullivan).
- The Designated Teacher informs the pupil's parent/guardian* by telephone and schedules a meeting for the matter to be discussed.
- The Designated Teacher advises the parent/guardian to seek medical attention, as appropriate, and recommends that they should request for the child to be referred to the Child and Family Team by a doctor.
- If the child's medical needs are not satisfied, for example, failure to schedule a doctor's appointment, the Designated Teacher for Child Protection will make a Child Protection referral of neglect to Social Services.
- The Designated Teacher will continue to monitor the pupil as appropriate.

* Parent/Guardian will not be informed if they are linked to the reason why the child is self harming.

This policy was last reviewed by the Designated Teacher: March 2018

Due to be Reviewed: March 2020

Appendix 1

Dear [Parent(s)/Guardian(s)]

Further to our telephone conversation regarding [Name of pupil] I have enclosed a copy of our "Self Harm" policy as promised.

It is important that you make an appointment for [Name of pupil] with her G.P. and contact me to keep me informed. Failure to do so may mean that Social Services have to be informed.

Yours sincerely

Miss O'Sullivan
Designated Teacher for Child Protection