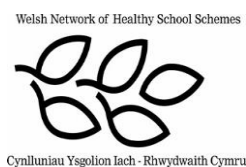


# Cwmffrwdroer Primary School



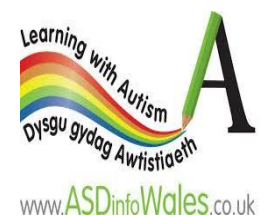
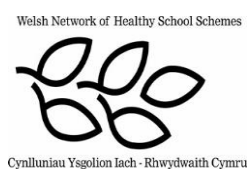
## Relationship Policy 2021



Our school is invested in supporting the very best possible relational health between;

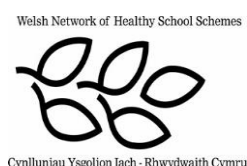
- parent and child
- child and child
- child and school staff
- parent and school staff
- school staff
- school staff and senior leaders
- school staff and external agencies.

To this end our school is committed to educational practices which **Protect, Relate, Regulate and Reflect**;



## Protect

- Increased 'safety cues' in all aspects of the school day; 'meet and greet' at the classroom door and an open door policy for informal discussions with parents/ carers.
- Staff trained in 'PACE' modes of interaction (Hughes 2015) (Playful, Acceptance, Curiosity, Empathy); proven to shift children out of flight/fright/freeze positions.
- Staff ensure that interactions with children are socially engaging and not socially defensive, to decrease likelihood of children relating defensively (flight/fright/freeze). Staff use the WINE model to 'Wonder, Imagine, Notice and show Empathy' about a child's situation.
- A whole school commitment to not using harsh voices, shouting, put downs, criticism and shaming (proven to be damaging psychologically and neurologically). *'Connect not Correct'*
- Staff 'interactively repair' occasions when they themselves move into defensiveness.
- Pedagogic interventions that help staff to get to know children better on an individual basis e.g. 'I wish my teacher knew....' (what matters to them, who matters to them, their dreams, hopes etc.). This is key to enabling children to feel safe enough to talk, if they wish, about painful life experiences, which are interfering with their ability to learn and their quality of life.
- Vulnerable children have easy and daily access to at least one named, trusted, emotionally available adult, and know when and where to find that adult. If the child does not wish to connect with the allocated adult, an alternative adult is found.
- School staff adjust expectations around vulnerable children to correspond with their developmental capabilities and experience of traumatic stress. This includes removing vulnerable and traumatised children in a kind and non-judgmental way from situations they are not managing well (e.g. children who are continually triggered into alarm states in the main playground can access a calmer, smaller areas with emotionally regulating adults).
- Provision of a clear, confidential and non-shaming system of self-referral for children's help/talk time. The nurturing of staff in such a way that they feel valued, emotionally-regulated and supported, to interact throughout the school day with positive social engagement rather than defensiveness.



## Relate

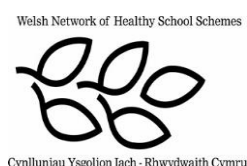
- A whole-school commitment to enabling children to see themselves, their relationships and the world positively, rather than through a lens of threat, danger or self-blame.
- Vulnerable children provided with repeated relational opportunities (with emotionally-available adults) to make the shift from 'blocked trust' (not feeling psychologically safe with anyone) to trust, and from self-help to 'help-seeking'.

## Regulate

- Relational interventions specifically designed to bring down stress hormone levels (e.g. from toxic to tolerable) in vulnerable children, enabling them to feel calm, soothed and safe. This is to support learning, quality of life and protect against stress-induced physical and mental illness, now and in later life.
- Evidence-based interventions that aim to repair psychological damage and brain damage caused by traumatic life experiences, through emotionally regulating, playful, enriched adult-child interactions.
- The emotional well-being and regulating of staff is treated as a priority to prevent burn-out, stress related absence, or leaving the profession through stress-related illness, secondary trauma and/or feeling undervalued, blamed or shamed.

## Reflect

- Staff training and development and training in the art of good listening, dialogue, empathy and understanding (instead of asking a series of questions/ giving lectures). Staff always remain curious and use the WINE model to 'Wonder, Imagine, Notice and show Empathy' about a child's situation.
- Provision of skills and resources to support staff and parents/carers in meaningful empathetic conversations with vulnerable children who want to talk about their lives. This is to empower children to better manage their home situations and life in general.



- Within the context of an established and trusted relationship with a member of staff, children are given the means and opportunity to symbolise painful life experiences through images as well as words, as a key part of 'working through' these experiences and memory re-consolidation.

Means include the provision of different modes of expression, e.g. art/play/drama/ music/sand/emotion worksheets/emotion cards. PSE (Personal and Social Education) informed by current research and neuroscience) on mental health and emotions.

The SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) curriculum content enables children to express their feelings and emotions, make informed choices about how they relate to others, how they live their lives, and how they treat their brains, bodies and minds.

- Staff development and training to help children move from 'behaving' their trauma/painful life experiences, to reflecting on those experiences. Staff learn to do this through empathetic conversation, addressing children's negative self-referencing and helping them develop positive, coherent narratives about their lives.

Our behaviour is based on resolution and interactive repair (e.g. restorative conversations). TRAINING will be provided in summer term.



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