

Place2Be policy recommendations



About Place2Be

Place2Be is a children's mental health charity with over 27 years' experience working with pupils, families and staff in UK schools. We provide evidence based mental health support in schools and offer expert training and professional qualifications. Our model is a Whole School Approach, involving all parts of the school community to achieve a mentally healthy school.

Our key policy recommendation based on our experience is:

Every UK school should have an embedded mental health service, to provide direct support for children and young people, and to promote the development of a whole-school approach to mental wellbeing.

Our secondary policy recommendations and messages are:

For an increased focus on prevention and early intervention, supporting children in primary schools as well as secondary schools. The evidence tells us that 50% of mental health problems are established by age 14.

To prioritise pupil wellbeing and understand that this is intrinsically linked to improving both behaviour and access to learning.

To promote a whole-school approach to mental health and recognise that staff wellbeing and partnerships with carers, parents and families are crucial for supporting children with their mental health and creating a mentally healthy school community.

The need for long term and sustainable funding and investment in the end-to-end CAMHS system and children's mental health workforce.

For schools to be sufficiently funded to have the flexibility to commission mental health support that meets the needs of their pupils and school community.

To support schools to adopt wellbeing measurements to better understand and monitor the wellbeing of pupils.



For education inspection frameworks to have increased emphasis on pupil wellbeing as part of a whole-school approach to mental health.

For initial teacher training to have increased emphasis on pupil wellbeing and mental health, and whole-school approaches to mental health.

For Integrated Care Systems to prioritise children's mental health and look at joint commissioning arrangements that establish high quality school based mental health support. (England only)

For NHS Mental Health Support Teams to scope existing provision in their regions and seek to work closely with expert voluntary sector providers such as Place2Be in areas where they are operating. (England only)

Further information

For further information please see our webpage - place2be.org.uk/policy or contact Sally Etchells Wragg, Place2Be's Policy and Public Affairs Manager, on sally.etchells@place2be.org.uk.

Royal Patron
HRH The Duchess
Of Cambridge

place2be.org.uk