



SEMH

Social, Emotional & Mental Health
Support Team



May 2020

Newsletter

Dear colleagues,

As a team, we hope that you are all well and staying safe and positive during these strange times.

Firstly, I would like to inform you that Jill Heyes has now left our team, enjoying a well-earned and very much-deserved retirement. Jill has contributed her skills and expertise to schools, other services, individual members of staff, pupils and parents alike. She has also been a critical friend and shoulder to cry on for many of you. At times, quite literally lending her blood, sweat and tears to supporting others. Our team will miss Jill, as I am sure many of you will too.

Tammy van der Meulen has also left Nyland to start a new and exciting venture in another school. Tammy will also be very much missed, not only by us and the Nyland Campus but many people in the Borough. Paul Holroyd is now the Nyland Principal and can be contacted via email at head@nyland-pri.swindon.sch.uk.

With every ending, comes a new beginning. We have the pleasure of welcoming Jo Sayer to our outreach team, having previously worked at the Nyland PRU. Her expertise will be well utilised on our team. I am sure she will receive a warm welcome from you when we are reunited.

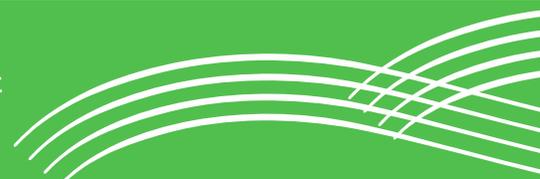
Many of you may already be aware, but for those that are not, I am now appointed as the SEMH Support Team Leader. I am excited to lead such an experienced and hardworking team. A team that inspires me and one that I continue to learn from.

I wanted to talk briefly about the times that we are currently in. When the COVID-19 crisis began, I for one felt feelings of despair, uncertainty and at times fear. I know many of you may have experienced similar feelings. Our world has very much changed for the time being. Some things may never go back to the way they once were...only time will tell. This made me think about changes that happen all too often for the vulnerable children we support. We have had to adapt our way of thinking, doing and being. Something that many of our children have to do weekly, daily or even hourly. The difference is, we can draw on our resilience and self-regulation to support our overall wellbeing and how we respond.

It is vital that right now we all support one another - our colleagues, friends, family and importantly ourselves. We need to do what we can to "fill our cup". Be it our daily walk, noticing how clear the air is, the birds singing, how quiet the roads are, the extra time we have with our loved ones or getting those jobs done that we have been putting off. For those that have attended our wellbeing courses, draw on the techniques shared during sessions. Please also share them with your colleagues and loved ones.

Office Address: Mountford Manor Primary School, Bothwell Road, Walcot, Swindon, SN3 3EZ.
Tel: 01793 612874 Web: www.nyland-pri.swindon.sch.uk/about-us/semh-support-team

Proud to be part of The White Horse Federation Multi-Academy Trust
Tel: 01793 818603 • @WhiteHorseFed • www.twhf.org.uk





SEMH

Social, Emotional & Mental Health
Support Team



Whatever it is for you, make sure you make time to do it and encourage others to do the same. We are, quite literally “in it together”. Above all else be kind. Be kind to yourself and have compassion for how you feel. There will be stormy days for us all. Remember, just like the weather, this too shall pass.

Thinking about the present and the future

This year we have seen large numbers of referrals, particularly in the build up to Easter. We have also received unprecedented requests for training. I am mindful, particularly with training requests, that this can sometimes reduce our capacity to support school staff and children. I must also pay careful attention to the work life balance of our team. Training which is often (if not always) bespoke to the school, takes time to plan and coordinate between team members. In time we plan to change the way we offer training. In the coming weeks individual discussions will take place with schools regarding any previously agreed training. We will uphold these commitments once it is safe enough to do so. However, from this point on we are not accepting any new training requests until further notice.

As a team we will also need to carefully consider how we move forward with referrals that are currently open. **We have taken the decision not to accept new referrals until the end of September.** This may change, depending on government guidance for the phased return to schools that was announced by Gavin Williamson as I write. When we return, the team will need to meet and make case-by-case decisions about referrals.

Many pupils will have moved to new schools, some staff may have moved on and our feeling is that many schools will need to ‘get back up on their feet’ initially.

Above all else, it is my job to ensure that our service runs as well as it always has. That means carefully managing the wellbeing of the team and our overall capacity.

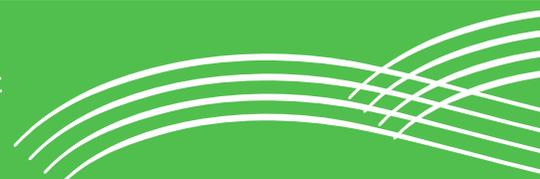
I am sure as a member of school staff you are being asked questions, many of which you may not have answers to. Please let me assure you, it’s not just you. We all need to be as flexible and empathetic with one another as we can be during this time. As a team we appreciate your understanding and continued support with these difficult decisions.

Please let me stress, the SEMH Support Team are still operating, albeit very differently than before. The team are responsive to phone calls and emails (amidst our own self-care and commitments for family and loved ones). We are still contacting school staff, attending virtual meetings and contributing to paperwork required by SENCOs and the Borough. Please continue to contact caseworkers directly should you need them.

In the meantime, I wish you all the best. Please stay safe and stay kind.

Aarron Wynne

Office Address: Mountford Manor Primary School, Bothwell Road, Walcot, Swindon, SN3 3EZ.
Tel: 01793 612874 Web: www.nyland-pri.swindon.sch.uk/about-us/semh-support-team





SEMH

Social, Emotional & Mental Health
Support Team



Academy buy in 2020/2021

As a team we would like to thank and acknowledge the schools that have bought into our service for another year, especially during these uncertain times. I believe this to be testament to the hard work and dedication our team provide. Evidence from this academic year shows;

- The team have worked with 122 pupils this academic year (EY to Year 6), we have also supported some secondary aged pupils.
- Overall evaluation of support: 87% Excellent and 13% Very Good
- Training evaluation: 55% Excellent, 34% Very Good, 10% Good, 1% Satisfactory
- This academic year we have trained 419 individuals at all levels in schools or settings
- Response time: 100% within 2 weeks (making contact with schools following a request for support)

Office Address: Mountford Manor Primary School, Bothwell Road, Walcot, Swindon, SN3 3EZ.
Tel: 01793 612874 Web: www.nyland-pri.swindon.sch.uk/about-us/semh-support-team

