

# Place2Be policy recommendations 2024

**Our mission is to improve children's mental health, so that no child faces mental health issues alone. We believe that every child deserves to have:**

**Easy access to expert mental health support that prevents issues from getting worse.**

**To achieve this, there needs to be**

- Government investment in mental health programmes and services delivering early intervention, prevention, and providing support further 'upstream'.
- Collaborative approaches to commissioning children and young people's mental health services, involving local schools, voluntary and community organisations, local government and Integrated Care Boards.
- Voluntary and community sector involvement in the design and delivery of mental health services, utilising their skills, experience and workforce capabilities.
- Mental health support in every school, accessible to every pupil, embedded through a school-based counsellor or mental health practitioner.

**An inclusive school environment that understands and nurtures wellbeing.**

**This means we need to see**

- Guidance on a whole-school approach to supporting pupil wellbeing being followed by every school, with schools being given the necessary funding and resources to do this.
- School staff equipped with knowledge and understanding of mental health and wellbeing relevant to their roles – with modules embedded from initial teacher training through the career framework up to senior leadership.
- A school ethos that commits to uplifting wellbeing, building resilience and the emotional strength of school populations including staff and pupils. This should form a key part of school accountability and oversight metrics.
- Schools should routinely collect data on pupil wellbeing and work with the NHS to more effectively utilise this information locally and nationally to gain a clearer understanding of mental health needs.

**A voice in the educational and mental health support they receive, and support that helps them to live well and thrive.**

**We can get there when**

- Children who need more specialist mental health support can receive it at the point of need.
- The Government commits to long-term, sustainable investment in Children and Young People's Mental Health Services including CAMHS.
- Schools actively involve young people with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities and their families in shaping and delivering EHCPs.
- Alternative Provision is a last resort for pupils, who receive the mental health support they need to enable them to return to a mainstream education setting.

**A safe and supportive home life that builds positive mental health.**

**Families can be supported by**

- The Government addressing the risk factors of poor mental health through investment in social welfare, family and community services.
- Parents and carers being given appropriate support to build positive relationships with children, through government investment in childcare provision, early years services, community hubs and mental health services.
- Schools more effectively working in partnership with families.
- Having comprehensive pathways of support for looked after or care-experienced young people, bringing together joined-up services who provide areas of support, e.g. education, employment and training, social work and mental health.



## Further information

For further information please see our webpage - [place2be.org.uk/policy](https://place2be.org.uk/policy) or contact our policy team on [policy@place2be.org.uk](mailto:policy@place2be.org.uk).



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