

Mental Health Support Team (MHST)

Providing Early Intervention & Support

The Mental Health Support Team is a new NHS-commissioned service working directly within our school. MHST offers free, early therapeutic support to help children and young people manage common mild to moderate mental health difficulties.

Available Support

The MHST provides a variety of support pathways tailored to the needs of the student and their family:

- **One-to-One Sessions:** Direct support with an Education Mental Health Practitioner.
 - **Group Work:** Collaborative sessions learning coping skills and strategies.
 - **Parent-Led Work:** Empowering parents with tools to support their young person at home.
 - **Whole School Approaches:** Assemblies, training and initiatives to foster a safe and supportive environment for everyone.
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Support Criteria: Is this right for you?

The MHST utilises low-intensity Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (LI-CBT). This is a brief, structured, and goal-focused intervention.

When MHST is Most Effective

LI-CBT is designed for specific mental health presentations **including low mood, anxiety and emotional dysregulation**. However, it is not the appropriate service if:

- There are significant contextual concerns (e.g., environmental factors) causing the distress.
 - The difficulties are suspected to be related to neurodiversity rather than primarily a mental health need.
 - The difficulties require specialist services (exceeding the remit of low-intensity intervention).
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How to Access Support

Accessing the MHST is a collaborative process between the family and the school.

Who can identify a need?	Next Steps
Young People	Speak to a trusted teacher or staff member.
Parents & Carers	Contact the school to request a discussion regarding support.
School Staff	Teachers may identify students who could benefit from intervention.

The Referral Process:

All requests and observations are discussed with the school's Designated Mental Health Lead (DMHL), who is responsible for making official referrals to the MHST.
