

SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL POLICY



POLICY NAME: PRIVATE THERAPIST

NEXT REVIEW DATE: 01/09/2027

Policy on External Private Therapists in School

Purpose

This policy outlines the school's position on the involvement of external private therapists working on-site, ensuring consistency of support, safeguarding of pupils, and alignment with NHS and statutory services.

Policy Statement

Our school does not permit private therapists on-site during the school day.

Rationale

This decision is based on the following considerations:

- **Consistency of Professional Guidance**
The school works closely with NHS services and commissioned professionals to ensure a coordinated and consistent therapeutic approach. The involvement of multiple external therapists may lead to conflicting advice, which can confuse staff, pupils, and families.
- **Pupil Wellbeing and Protection from Intrusion**
Many of our pupils have complex needs and benefit from a structured and predictable environment. The presence of numerous visiting therapists may be intrusive and disruptive to their learning and emotional regulation.
- **Safeguarding and Quality Assurance**
The school must ensure that all support provided is appropriately monitored, quality assured, and aligned with each pupil's educational and care plans. This is more difficult to achieve with multiple independent practitioners operating on-site.
- **Effective Use of Learning Time**
The school day is carefully structured to maximise educational outcomes. Frequent withdrawal for external therapy can impact pupils' access to learning and social development opportunities.
- **Strong In-House Expertise and Provision**
The school has a highly skilled workforce with specialist knowledge and extensive experience in supporting pupils with complex and additional needs. Our staff have developed deep expertise over many years, enabling them to deliver high-quality, consistent, and integrated support throughout the school day.
This in-house specialism ensures that therapeutic approaches are embedded within daily practice, rather than delivered in isolation, providing pupils with continuous and meaningful support.

Support Available

The school recognises the importance of therapeutic support and ensures that:

- Pupils have access to NHS services and commissioned therapists, including speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, CAMHS, and other relevant services.
- Staff work collaboratively with these professionals to embed therapeutic strategies throughout the school day.
- Families are supported in accessing appropriate services through established referral pathways.

Working with External Therapists

- The school is happy to liaise with private therapists if appropriate, to share general strategies that support the pupil's development.
- Any information sharing will be subject to parental consent and data protection requirements.

Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure it continues to meet the needs of pupils and aligns with best practice and local authority/NHS guidance.