

Your needs

In 2017 PAPYRUS commissioned research amongst teaching professionals.¹ We found:



One in ten (11%) said, on average, a student shares suicidal thoughts with them once a term or more

Only half (53%) said they would feel confident they could support a student who had shared suicidal thoughts with them

Classroom teachers less confident compared to Heads/Deputies (48% of classroom teachers said that they would feel confident, compared to 75% of Heads or Deputies)

Classroom teachers also more likely to experience barriers to offering support (45% of Heads/Deputies said that nothing would prevent them from supporting the student themselves, vs. 21% of classroom teachers)



Teaching professionals noted a number of barriers which would prevent them from supporting a student with thoughts of suicide:

Almost half (47%) said they weren't trained in suicide prevention

A third (34%) said they would be worried about making the situation worse

22% felt that they wouldn't know the right things to say

15% said they would not know what steps to follow, as their school did not have a suicide prevention policy or procedure

13% said that they would not have permission to support the student, according to school/college guidelines

Very few teaching staff felt that it wasn't their role to provide support

(just 2% felt that it was a matter for parents/guardians and not the school, and 7% felt it wasn't their role)

Some of the concerns shared:

"I would feel responsible under safeguarding and possibly left to carry the can"

"I'm not sure if it's attention seeking rather than genuine thoughts"

"School discourages personal interactions"

"There are problems getting senior teachers to take notice"

"We don't have the time to spend with the student"

"I'd be worried about getting the correct support from the management team and concerned about fulfilling my other roles and responsibilities to other children in my class"

"I would want to help but don't consider myself qualified for this"



These findings highlight that whilst many teaching staff see it as their role to support students, many have concerns about offering this support – and do not feel equipped to provide it.

¹All figures are taken from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 804 teaching professionals. Fieldwork was undertaken between 7/3/2017 - 7/15/2017. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of the teaching population.

Over 200 schoolchildren are lost to suicide every year in the UK. Help us save the #ClassOf2018.

*Office for National Statistics Statistical Bulletin Suicides in England and Wales: 2015 Registrations; Nivca: Quarterly and Annual Suicide Statistics for Northern Ireland: 2015 Registrations; ScotPho: Suicide data introduction: 2015 Registrations.