

Parenting your child in anxious times – a five-week course for parents and carers of primary children.

Dear parent/carer,

We are contacting you from Thought-Full, the West Sussex Mental Health Support Team in Schools, to offer you the opportunity to attend our parent support group focussing on supporting children with fears and worries.

The sessions are suitable for any parents who would like some guidance and ideas about how best to support their child's emotional wellbeing but would be particularly suitable for those whose children experience fears and worries.

The five sessions will take place at school and will be led by mental health professionals who are experienced in supporting children and families with emotional wellbeing and mental health.

The five sessions will consist of:

1. Understanding anxiety - an introduction to the biological function of anxiety.
2. Supporting your child with anxiety and worries: 1 – this session explores what keeps anxiety going and the strategies you can use to support your child.
3. Supporting your child with anxiety and worries: 2 – further discussion of approaches to support an anxious child including our use of language and the PACE approach (playfulness, acceptance, curiosity and empathy).
4. An introduction to emotion coaching – a step by step approach to helping your child to learn about emotions and how to deal with them.
5. Encouraging resilience – exploring how we can support anxious children to build their resilience and grow into adults who can cope with life's ups and downs.

The sessions will be informal with plenty of opportunity for discussion, asking questions, and sharing your ideas and experiences with other parents. There may be different strategies you would like to try out at home after the sessions, but there is no set homework and we would just ask that parents and carers come with an open mind and a willingness to look at things from new perspectives.

If you would be interested in attending the course, please contact Miss McGonigle for details of how to secure your place.

Best wishes,

Lorraine Osmend – Mental Health Advisory Teacher.

What do other parents say about the course?

“That it really opens your eyes to what can cause it and the things that surround anxiety.”

“Attend! It was so useful & informative.”

“Informative and learnt a lot about how to use various techniques to help children”

“Open, honest, straightforward communication. Good practical advice – friendly, knowledgeable trainers.”

“Very worthwhile”