

Mrs Aspinall-Wood



My name is Mrs Debbie Aspinall-Wood and I hold the position at Bleak Hill of Pastoral and Safeguarding Manager. My role also allows me to be the Senior Mental Health Lead and Attendance officer. I enjoy my role as it encompasses many aspects of pastoral support and is varied on a day-to-day basis.

Firstly I am a Mum of a 19 year old young lady and a step Mum of 3 further girls aged 32, 28, and 24, this has given me a lot of personal experiences of children, home life, school life and all of the things that come along for the title of MUM.

My background is from serving for 13 years in Her Majesties Forces as a Combat Medical Technician in the Army. People ask me how and why I changed my career path into Primary Schools. Well, I don't know myself, but I do know that I left the forces to have a baby. I then started my own business as a childminder so that I could spend the time with my daughter and work at the same time. Once she went to school, I then looked at my future career path and decided after some voluntary work at St Aiden's in Billinge that my career was to take me into Education.

I worked for 4 years at St Aiden's in Year 3 and Year 6 then moved into the pastoral role when an Extended School Coordinators job came up at Parish Primary in the town centre. Due to the needs of families there I trained and learnt on the job how to develop my pastoral role and support families with Safeguarding, Attendance, extended school activities, enrichment experiences as well as trips and school holidays etc, etc, etc.

Over the past few years, I have developed my skills and knowledge around mental health, and this has now become part of my role at Bleak Hill. My skill in medical matters allows me to support children and families in medical matters as well as train children in school with first aid and support the adult first aiders also with more serious incidents in school.

Often, I get referred to as having two heads and two facial expressions, I am very supportive and caring and will apply all of my skills with any families in need of support, however my second head is that of being strict and supportive around attendance as every day in a child's school career matters.

I will say that I would like to see all families thinking that I am always approachable and always willing to help anyone, if it is first aid, financial worries, home issues, behaviour, safeguarding, or wellbeing worries that your child or you family are experiencing please give me a call or make an appointment. We can talk through the issues and If I don't have a solution, I will do my best to find someone who does. I even make home visits if children won't get out of bed and many parents in the past have used me as a threat to get their children up.

Mainly if anything please remember, I love my job, I am being paid to help and I can say to you, I am highly trained in many things and I like to be useful and apply my skills.

Take care, God bless, see you soon.

Debbie



Mr Cotterill

My name is Mr Lee Cotterill and I am Bleak Hill's Pastoral Lead. After working in education in a pastoral role for many years in a primary setting, I joined the Bleak Hill Primary School team in 2019. I am passionate about helping others and promoting good mental health.

For my own mental health and well-being, I enjoy hiking and camping on weekends. I am also passionate about music, practising drumming and guitar in my free time. I have recently become a father to my son Harrison, with whom I am excited to share these experiences.

As part of the pastoral and safeguarding team, I am here to support our Bleak Hill family, including our students, their families and our staff. Acting as a listening ear to all, I make myself available to help those who need me and can signpost you to further guidance. Everyone needs someone to talk to from time to time and I am here to provide that safe space. Everything I do is for the safety and welfare of our children. This could be through weekly check-ins for individual children, more structured interventions such as Lego Therapy and team-building exercises as well as providing a link between home and school. Should you ever need someone to talk to, please don't hesitate to contact me.