

Safeguarding & Learner Wellbeing Statement and Guidance

COVID-19 Campus Closures at Bridgend College



Whilst Bridgend College campuses remain closed, the safeguarding and wellbeing of our learners remains central to all that we do. This guidance is designed to append the [college safeguarding policy](#) and does not replace our fundamental responsibilities, expectations or standards expected by our staff, learners and other stakeholders.

We continue to monitor and follow advice and guidance from the Welsh Government and Public Health Wales and we recognise that whilst college campuses remain closed, learners and staff are reliant on remote and online connectivity to communicate and deliver teaching, learning and support.

We will continue to keep learners and staff updated via email, SMS, our official social media channels and via our dedicated webpage, which also contains regularly updated frequently asked questions: www.bridgend.ac.uk/coronavirus

Free College Meals

Mechanisms are in place to process a weekly payment to all learners who are eligible and in receipt of free college meals. Payments are being made directly to learner bank accounts via BACS on a Monday each week.

Payments will also be made during the Easter break.

Welfare and Vulnerabilities

Our learner Wellbeing Team are making check-in telephone calls to learners who have been identified at risk or vulnerable. The frequency of these calls are generally weekly.

Financial Hardship

EMA (Education Maintenance Allowance) and WGLG (Welsh Government Learning Grant) are being paid in line with standard payment cycles. This is every two weeks for EMA recipients and termly for those in receipt of WGLG.

Wellbeing

We know that mental wellbeing and support is increasingly important during a period of self-isolation and reduced social interaction and distancing.

Our Wellbeing Team is operational Monday-Friday from 8:30am-5:00pm.

Email: wellbeing@bridgend.ac.uk

Call or SMS: 07971 670 504 / 07800 598 090 / 07973 716 794

Website: www.bridgend.ac.uk/wellbeing

Additional Learning Support

Our Additional Learning Support team is providing support remotely via Google Classroom and Google Meets. You can contact the team by emailing aln@bridgend.ac.uk

Safeguarding & Learner Wellbeing Statement and Guidance

COVID-19 Campus Closures at Bridgend College



Child Protection Plans, Looked After or High Risk

Our Wellbeing Team will remain the lead contact for social workers and wider support services during campus closures.

Reporting a Concern

All staff should continue to follow the college's standard reporting protocols if they have a concern about a learner.

COVID-19 means a need for increased vigilance due to the pressures on services, families and young people, rather than a reduction in our standards and support.

Should a child or young person be at risk of significant harm and local agencies are not able to respond, the college will immediately follow the safeguarding procedures aligned to Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board (CTMSB): www.cwmtafmorgannwgsafeguardingboard.co.uk

Online Safety

The college monitors the use of IT systems and college owned devices and uses monitoring software which is able to identify keystrokes based on local, national and international vocabulary threat libraries. Such monitoring enables notification of incidents directly to those responsible for safeguarding within the college, providing information on the nature of the incident, the device asset number and the user. Monitoring is used to ensure the safety of all students and staff and to reduce risks associated with online grooming, sexual exploitation, trafficking, radicalisation, extremism and other illegal activities.

Where peer-to-peer bullying takes place, learners should be encouraged to use safety and reporting features within online platforms and apps. These features include reporting to the platform provider and blocking users.

Where peer-to-peer bullying or harassment occurs between Bridgend College learners, concerns can be shared with the college Wellbeing Team for further support, signposting and intervention.

Mental Wellbeing

Current restrictions will have an impact on the wellbeing of everyone. It is important to take reasonable steps to remain safely connected to reduce the impact of social distancing and self-isolation measures.

[Welsh Government Advice on Health and Wellbeing for Staff and Learners](#)

[Welsh Government Guidance on Staying Active](#)

Safeguarding & Learner Wellbeing Statement and Guidance

COVID-19 Campus Closures at Bridgend College



Key Contacts

Name and Role	Contact Number	Email
Designated Safeguarding Lead Joe Baldwin		jbaldwin@bridgend.ac.uk
Safeguarding and Wellbeing Manager Samantha Gunnarsson	07971 670504	wellbeing@bridgend.ac.uk
John Morgan Wellbeing Officer	07800 598090	wellbeing@bridgend.ac.uk
Mandy Shepherd Wellbeing Officer		wellbeing@bridgend.ac.uk
Bethan Lloyd Student Experience	07973 716794	wellbeing@bridgend.ac.uk
Bridgend County Borough Council Child Protection and Safeguarding	01656 642320 Emergency Out of Hours Team: 01443 743665	earlyhelp@bridgend.gov.uk

In an emergency (immediate threat or danger to life) you should always call 999