

PROJECT INC – RESPONSE TO COVID 19

Project Inc is committed to proactively managing the current situation regarding COVID 19.

Attending College is vital to children and young people's education, health, and wellbeing. Time out of an education setting is detrimental to cognitive and academic development, particularly for disadvantaged young people. This impact can affect both current levels of education and young people's future ability to learn, and therefore we need to ensure all students can attend their setting.

As a Specialist College, Project Inc has remained open to its young people and staff all the way throughout this pandemic and has assessed the risks and implemented proportionate control measures to limit the transmission of COVID 19 for its students and staff throughout. We have suitable and sufficient measures in place as long as these are followed to minimise the risk.

Please see our links to information for students who are anxious about COVID 19 and/or being in College, together with our arrangements for learning from home.

OVERVIEW

- Social distancing remains in place, both indoors and outdoors
- Masks are recommended both in classrooms and communal areas. Some students will be exempt for communication, medical or other reasons
- Handwashing or sanitising is encouraged frequently

ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

Project Inc's position is constantly informed by published guidance from the DfE and local authorities which is regularly monitored for updates.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The following pages set out further information and the College's response to the Government guidelines around COVID 19.

HELPING YOUR CHILD UNDERSTAND ABOUT COVID 19

At Project Inc we recognise that every young person is different, and parents/carers often understand the communication needs of their children better than anyone else. Below are a number of links to support explaining Coronavirus to students of different ages and communication stages.

Place2Be – Guide to helping parents answer questions from their children and to support family wellbeing: <https://www.place2be.org.uk/about-us/news-and-blogs/2020/march/coronavirus-information-for-children/>

Young Minds - Talking to your child about Coronavirus and 10 tips from their Parents Helpline to support family wellbeing: <https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/talking-to-your-child-about-coronavirus/>

Carers UK - Guidance for carers: <https://www.carersuk.org/help-and-advice/health/looking-after-your-health/coronavirus-covid-19>

Covibook – an interactive resource designed to support and reassure children aged 7 and under, designed to help children explain and draw the emotions that they might be experiencing during the pandemic: <https://www.mindheart.co/descargables>

Amaze - information pack for parents <https://amazesussex.org.uk/faqs-about-the-coronavirus-for-parent-carers-of-children-with-send-brighton-hove/>

[Public Health England](#) have produced an easy read version of their [Advice on the coronavirus for places of education](#). You can download it [here https://www.togetherforshortlives.org.uk/get-support/supporting-you/family-resources/coronavirus-qa/](https://www.togetherforshortlives.org.uk/get-support/supporting-you/family-resources/coronavirus-qa/)

LEARNING FROM HOME

Due to the ongoing issues associated with COVID 19 it may be necessary for either the College or a Creative Learning Studio to close, or for an individual student to work from home.

In any of the above scenarios, lessons and resources will be moved online. Creative Learning Studio Leads will provide a weekly update, in advance, on the lesson topics and resources required. Specific details of the activities for each subject will also be provided.

All learning activities are tailored to individual students and the goals and targets that they are working towards whilst at Project Inc.

We recognise that this may be a challenging situation and the College has processes in place for pastoral care, including calls and contact visits.

Please refer to our Distance Learning and E-Safety policy, on the College website, which sets out the arrangements for learning from home and pastoral care.

PROJECT INC – COVID 19 RISK ASSESSMENT POLICY

The risk to young people themselves of becoming severely ill from COVID 19 is very low and there are negative health impacts of being out of College.

While it is not possible to ensure a totally risk-free environment for people working in college, there is no evidence that young person transmit the disease any more than adults, and no evidence that staff in education settings are at any greater risk of fatal outcomes than many other occupations. Given the growing evidence base, the balance of risk is overwhelmingly in favour of young person's attending College.

Project Inc recognises its duty to reduce workplace risk to the lowest reasonably practical level by taking preventative measures so that student and staff health and safety and welfare is protected. In the context of COVID 19 this means:

- To ensure all are aware that there is a requirement that people who are ill should stay at home and for COVID 19 symptoms arrange a PCR test to be sent home as soon as possible
- Encouraging the take up of COVID 19 vaccination, as part of the national roll-out programme when offered
- Operating in small groups to minimise contact with large numbers of people
- Ensuring that all infection control procedures are effective by highlighting the importance of face coverings, regular handwashing, and surface cleaning and by making sure that all of the necessary resources are readily available
- Windows and doors will be left open to improve ventilation
- The wearing of face masks will be encouraged, although some students will be exempt for communication, medical or other reasons
- Ensuring that all staff follow social distancing guidelines wherever possible and where these guidelines cannot be met, due to the practical nature of a particular activity, the organisation will ensure that appropriate PPE is made available
- Supporting staff to be able to work from home when appropriate
- Ensuring that all shared offices / meeting spaces have a specific risk assessment in place, staff work back-to-back or side-to-side (rather than face-to-face) whenever possible. Where necessary, screens or barriers are used to separate people from each other
- Limiting public access to all Project Inc Creative Learning Studios.

Throughout this assessment we based our evaluations on safe social distancing and movement of all parties and considered the number of persons on-site based on Gov.uk guidance, while continuing to support those identified as most at need, evaluating initial student capacities and then taking into account the number of staff in each of these areas to support those students.