

FIVE WAYS TO WELLBEING

Many factors can influence our wellbeing but research says that doing one or more of these five different things regularly can help boost your mood and make you feel happier

Be Active



Go for a walk or run. Step outside. Cycle. Play a game. Do some gardening. Dance. Exercising makes you feel good. Pick something you enjoy and try to do it regularly

Help Someone



Do something nice for a friend or someone you know or give thanks. Smile. Volunteer your time. Join a community group

Try something new and keep learning



With family, friends, colleagues and neighbours. At home, work, school or in your local community

Connect with the people around you



Learn to play an instrument or how to cook your favourite food. Set a challenge you will enjoy. It'll help boost your confidence and can be fun

Take Notice



Be aware of the world around you and what you are feeling. Catch sight of the beautiful. Notice the changing seasons. Savour the moment, whether you are walking to school, eating lunch or talking to friends



ABOUT THE GUIDE

This guide has been created with the support of the students, and their families. We're supporting openly discussing and encouraging people to share their individual advice, tips and thoughts around wellbeing.

This guide should sign post any questions and thoughts you may have about ones wellbeing.

Wellbeing and Student support

SUPPORT AND SELF HELP GUIDE

for Students, Mental health & Wellbeing





SUPPORT AVAILABLE NOW

You don't need to wait, you can get in touch straight away

LGBT+ SUPPORT SERVICE

- **London Friend:** If you live in London, are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender or in doubt of your sexuality or gender identity, you can get advice, peer-support and information here: <https://londonfriend.org.uk/mental-health/>

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

- **Cruse:** If you have experienced the death of someone close to you, you can get support here. Visit: <https://www.cruse.org.uk/> or call: **08088081677**

EATING DISORDERS

- **BEAT** - Eating disorders advice and support. You can contact them by phone, email or one-to-one web chat Visit: www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk/
- Helpline: 0808 801 0677
- Studentline: 0808 801 0811
- Youthline: 0808 801 0711
- **Eating Matters** - A charity offering counselling for people with mild to moderate eating disorders. Visit: www.eatingmatters.org.uk/ or call: 01603 767062

YOUNG CARERS

A young carer is a child or young person who helps to look after a relative. This may be due to them having an illness, a disability, mental health concern or a drug or alcohol problem. Support is available for young carers by contacting:

- **Children's society** : Visit: <https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/information/young-people/young-carers>
- **Redbridge Carers Support service:** Visit: <https://www.rcss.org.uk/i-am-a-carer>

SELF HARM

Advice and support for those who self-harm:

- **Harmless:** email info@harmless.org.uk or visit www.harmless.org.uk
- **CALM** (for men): call 0800 58 58 58 or visit www.thecalmzone.net/issues/self-harm/
- **National Self Harm Network** forums: visit www.nshn.co.uk
- **Mind:** call 0300 123 3393 or visit www.mind.org.uk
- **YoungMinds Parents Helpline:** call 0808 802 5544

- **Kooth** - FREE Online counselling and peer support for 11-25 year olds. Visit: www.kooth.com
- **ChatHealth** - A secure text messaging service for parents, carers, and young people to confidentially ask for help about a range of issues and find out how to access local services. <https://chathealth.nhs.uk/> or call **07507 326645**
- **MAP** - FREE confidential support, information and advice on issues such as housing, money and mental health for people aged 11-25. Visit: www.map.uk.net or call the MAP helpline: **0800 0744454**
- **The Mix** - Support service for young people - from mental health to money, homelessness to finding a job, break-ups to drugs. Visit: www.themix.org.uk or call The Mix Helpline: **0808 808 4994**

SELF CARE

There are a number of other suggested self-care things we can do to look after our own mental health - here are some of them:

Eat a healthy diet and avoid certain foods

Swapping processed food for healthier alternatives.



Dance

Put on your favourite songs and have a little boogie in the living room. Even small movements can make a big difference.

Take time away from technology

See how it feels to take yourself away from your phone for a bit, it doesn't have to be for long but it can make a lot of differences.



Try some relaxation techniques

Having a few minutes in your day just to be aware of your breathing and become fully relaxed can calm the mind completely.



Develop friendships

Being with people who make you feel confident and good about yourself can really boost your mental health.



Be kind to yourself

Self kindness won't necessarily stop your thoughts or feelings from being difficult, but it might provide some small comfort in the midst of them.

Write three positive things that you did each day

Writing things down can help to arrange thoughts.



Talk to a friend about how you are coping

Ringing for a chat could help you get away from how you're feeling.

- Talk to your friends online or find a safe online support group.
- Take part in a photography challenge with your family or friends.
- Create a playlist with your friends.

Organise your day

Writing a list and organising yourself may help to prevent stress..

Try to get showered and dressed each morning

Set some goals for the future

Goal-setting can give you some extra motivation and encouragement. It may also help with your daily routine, giving you something to work towards to get you through the day.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS

Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), can affect a child or young person's ability to learn. It can also affect their behaviour or ability to socialise, reading and writing, ability to understand things, concentration levels, or physical ability. If you think you may have special educational needs you can contact:

- **National Autistic Society:** Visit: <https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/topics/mental-health>
- **Young Minds:** Visit: <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

Self Help Techniques

Managing anxiety and emotions

7/11 breathing technique

Inhale deeply for seven counts and exhale slowly for eleven counts. This technique aims to slow down the heart rate and prevent panic from escalating. We would encourage practising the 7/11 breathing technique for at least 5-10 minutes, or until the feelings of panic and worry decrease.

5, 4, 3, 2, 1 grounding technique

Aims to reduce feelings of being overwhelmed and to encourage relaxation:

- Note 5 things - you can see around you
- Note 4 things - you can touch around you
- Note 3 things - you can hear
- Note 2 things - you can smell
- Note 1 thing - you can taste

Managing anger

It's okay to feel angry but there are ways to manage anger:

- 1 Breathe slowly
- 2 Relax your body
- 3 Try mindfulness techniques
- 4 Exercise
- 5 Use up your energy in other ways
- 6 Do something to distract yourself mentally or physically

SELF SOOTHE BOX

You could access a self soothe box when you are experiencing symptoms of anxiety. The self soothe box would contain items which should help you feel more relaxed and comfortable.

A self soothe box could be in an easy to reach location, such as a bedroom or in the living room. If possible, you could use this box in a quiet environment which you consider to be safe.

These are items that could be included in your self soothe box:



Touch - Items which are interesting to touch, which serve as a good distraction for hands. This may include fidget cubes/spinners, playdough or stress balls. This may encourage muscles to relax, which can help to reduce feelings of anxiety.



Smell - Smells which can help promote positive feelings and relaxation. This may include peppermint or lavender.



Music - This may be a favourite music playlist or music aimed at promoting relaxation. This could be a wind-up music box or played through a music device.



Water - Regular sipping of water is a good way to keep a steady rhythm to breathing and heart rate, helping to reduce feelings of worry.



Memories - These could be items which have positive memories attached to them. This could include photos, toys or novelty items. This may help to boost positive emotions and reduce feelings of worry or frustration.



URGENT ADVICE

If you need help for a mental health crisis or emergency, you should get immediate expert advice and assessment.

- **24/7 First Response Service** - call: 0808 196 3494
- **999** - If someone's life is at risk
- **Childline** - If you're under 19, you can talk to Childline about any concern you have, call 0800 1111. The number will not appear on your phone bill
- **Papyrus** - If you are (or know a young person) thinking of suicide, Papyrus offers confidential suicide prevention advice call: 0800 068 4141
- **Samaritans** - If you just need to talk, any time of the day or night, these services offer confidential advice from trained volunteers. Call: 116 123 to talk to Samaritans, or email: jo@samaritans.org for a reply within 24 hours
- Text: **SHOUT** to 85258 to contact the Shout Crisis Text Line, or Text YM if you're under 19

If you have any concerns or questions about anything we haven't covered then please contact us or visit the Therapy room



STAYING SAFE ONLINE

Stay Safe Online is an education programme which protects children both online and offline. For further information visit:
<https://staysafeonline.org/stay-safe-online/>

APPS

There are lots of free apps available which have been assessed by the NHS. You could try some of them to see which ones work best for you. Here are just a few of them:



Bluelce: This app helps young people manage their emotions and reduce urges to self-harm.



Calm Harm: Reduce urges to self-harm and manage emotions in a more positive way.



Catch It: Learn to manage negative thoughts and look at problems differently.



distrACT: Quick and discreet access to information and advice about self-harm and suicidal thoughts.



MeeTwo: A safe and secure forum for teenagers wanting to discuss any issue affecting their lives.



Student Health App: Reduce your worries, feel more confident and get the health information you need as a student.



ThinkNinja: Designed to teach young people about mental health, emotional wellbeing and resilience.



Thrive: Use games to track your mood and teach yourself methods to take control of stress and anxiety.