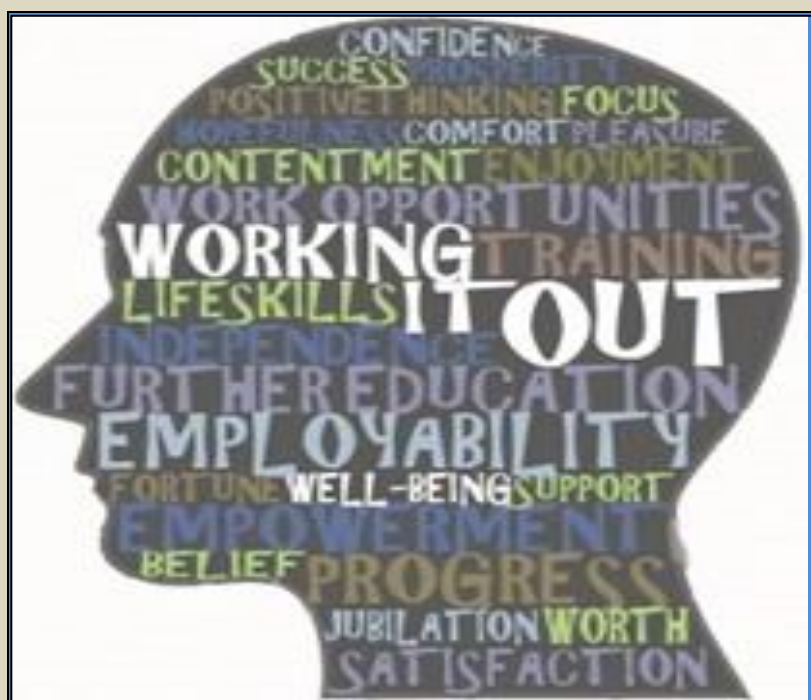


# South Dartmoor College



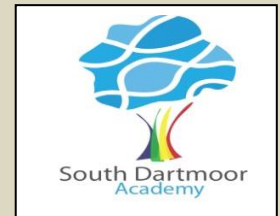
## Supporting Good Attendance



Support & advice for students experiencing  
Social, Emotional and Mental Health  
difficulties

## Contacts and sources of information

Dan Vile  
Designated Safeguarding Lead  
Tel: 01364 652230  
Email: [dvile@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk](mailto:dvile@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk)



## The Pastoral Team

### Designated Safeguarding team

The designated members of staff keeping children safe will offer advice and support to colleagues, pass on concerns to the relevant authorities and liaise with agencies. The designated members of staff at school are:



**Dan Vile -Designated Lead**  
**Deputy Safeguarding leads**

### Head of House



**Mike Slater**  
Head of House -  
**Beltor**



**Jamie Morrison Hill**  
Head of House -  
Fox Tor



**David Ray**  
Head of House –  
**Haytor**



**Phil Roberts**  
Head of House –  
Hound Tor



**Amy Matthews**  
Head of House -  
Rippon Tor

## Supporting good mental health at South Dartmoor Community College

We recognise some of our young people may experience social, emotional or mental health difficulties. This can include disruptive behaviours, as well as becoming withdrawn or isolated. Symptoms may include: anxiety, depression, self-harming behaviours, substance misuse, eating disorders or physical symptoms that are medically unexplained, becoming withdrawn or isolated, poor social skills and behaviour problems.

All of the above can impact on a child's school attendance.

South Dartmoor College follows Department for Education advice, which advises:

- Families & young people are involved in decisions
- Other agencies are consulted and engaged
- Counselling services are considered
- Families & young people seek advice from National Organisations offering help and advice

## Useful agencies and National organisations:

## Childline

You can talk to us about anything. No problem is too big or too small. When you call us on 0800 1111 you'll come through to our switchboard. This is where someone friendly will ask if you want to speak to a counsellor. If you log in for a [1-2-1 counsellor chat](#) online, you might wait a little while before being connected with a counsellor.

Call free on [0800 1111](tel:08001111) or get in touch online. However you choose to contact us, you're in control. It's confidential and you don't have to give your name if you don't want to.

<https://childline.org.uk>

**YOUNG MINDS:** <http://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

- PARENT HELPLINE: 0808 802 5544
- Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service (**CAMHS**): 01392 208 600
- <http://www.nhs.uk/nhsengland/aboutnhsservices/mental-health-services-explained/pages/about-childrens-mental-health-services.aspx>

**THE PROJECT:** <http://theprojectyp.org.uk/> T: 01404 549045 M: 07970 167341 E: [info@theprojectyp.org.uk](mailto:info@theprojectyp.org.uk)

- (This free Project, based in Axminster, is a peer support network that has been set up to support young people aged 12-24yrs with mental health issues, and their parents and carers).

**RETHINK MENTAL ILLNESS**—Young Peoples Page

- <http://www.rethink.org/living-with-mental-illness/young-people>



- <http://www.youngdevon.org>
- Email: [referrals@youngdevon.org](mailto:referrals@youngdevon.org)
- Barnstaple: 07860 404019 Exeter: 01392 331666 Newton Abbot: 01392 381992 Ivybridge & Tavistock: 01752 698402



- <http://www.kooth.com>
- Counsellors available online: Monday-Friday 12 noon till 10pm
- Weekends 6pm till 10pm

**The online service:** provides access to online advice, self-help tools and counselling.

- is available 365 days a year

- provides interactive counselling until 10pm every night

**The face-to-face service:**

- can be accessed on a self-referral basis by young people aged 11 to 18 years
- is available by contacting Young Devon
- provides access to Young Devon’s trained counsellors
- is available in safe settings across Devon



**MindEd** is a free educational resource on children and young people’s mental health for all adults

Are you a parent or carer who is concerned about your child? Or perhaps you just want some hints and tips on parenting? MindEd for Families has online advice and information from trusted sources and will help you to understand and identify early issues and best support your child.

<https://www.minded.org.uk/>

**Youth enquiry service (YES)**

Newton Abbot  
11 Queen Street, Newton Abbot TQ12 2AQ  
01392 381992  
[yes.newtonabbot@youngdevon.org](mailto:yes.newtonabbot@youngdevon.org)

Drop-in:  
Mon, Tues, Thurs: 1-5pm  
Fri: 1-5pm

**Children’s Centres**

Visit <https://new.devon.gov.uk> to search for your local Children’s Centre



**Early help for mental health guidance**

## ‘10 a day’ choices towards balancing our mental health



Talk about your feelings



Do something you enjoy and are good at



Keep yourself hydrated



Eat well



Keep active in mind and body



Take a break



Stay connected to those you care about



Ask for help



Be proud of your very being



Actively care for others

Attendance—if there is anything causing your child to miss school, please contact us so that we can support you and your child and resolve any issues. Poor attendance negatively affects achievement and social interaction.

## Attendance Policy

### Objectives

- to encourage full attendance and punctuality
- to record and monitor attendance and absenteeism and apply appropriate strategies
- to minimise its occurrence
- to acknowledge and reward a successful record of attendance
- to ensure a consistent approach throughout the college

### Reporting Absence

Attendance is checked on a daily basis. If a student is absent without a given reason the college calls the parents/carers using Truancy call. Parents can inform the college of absence in 4 ways;

1. Send a note in
2. Call the College **01364 652230**, select the option to report an absence and leave a message
3. Call the College **01364 652230**, and speak to the Attendance Coordinator directly
4. Email Cathy Taylor at [suebrown@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk](mailto:suebrown@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk)

### Where there are concerns

If a student's absence falls below 95% the college will be seeking ways to support an improvement. The Attendance Coordinator meets Heads of House weekly to discuss attendance issues and any requests for absence.

- **Stage 1 PERSONAL TUTORIAL**

The tutor discusses reasons for absence with the student and suggests strategies for improvement.

- **Stage 2 Attendance Coordinator involvement**

Parents will be informed by letter. A response is requested from home.

- **Stage 3 Parental interview**

Parents are invited to meet the Head of House to discuss the problem and see if the college can support an improvement in attendance. The College will request medical evidence.

- **Stage 4 Educational Welfare Officer (EWO)**

The EWO makes contact by official letter or telephone and an appointment is made to meet the student with the parent and Head of House/Attendance Coordinator in college

- **Stage 5 Legal Sanctions** -The EWO exercises the LEA's obligation to enforce legal sanctions.

### Figure 1: Attendance thresholds

% Attendance	
97% or more	Outstanding
95-96%	Excellent
91-94%	Cause for concern
90% or less	Persistently absent