



The Inns of  
Court College  
of Advocacy

# **Student Wellbeing and Suicide Prevention Policy**

## Aim of policy

The ICCA is committed to promoting and supporting the health and wellbeing of all members of the ICCA community. We recognise that students will join us from a wide variety of backgrounds and with differing and varied life experiences. Students studying at the ICCA will join us with physical and mental health conditions which may impact on their work and study. We also recognise the significant demands placed upon students both in studying on the Bar Course and in seeking pupillage and career progression. Throughout a student's time with the ICCA, it shall aim to create a supportive learning environment that is able to recognise and address student wellbeing needs.

Further, the ICCA is aware that suicide is the leading cause of death in young people and that we play a role in helping to prevent suicide in young people.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the other policies used by the ICCA to promote and maintain wellbeing and create a supportive learning environment for students:

[Bullying and Harassment Policy](#)

[Equality and Diversity Policy](#)

[Fair Admissions Policy](#)

[Personalised Assessment Arrangement and Inclusion Plan Policy](#)

[Student Attendance and Engagement Policy](#)

[Student Conduct Policy](#)

[Student Protection Plan](#)

[Student Voice Policy](#)

It should also be read in light of the advice and guidance to students provided in the Student Handbook.

The Bar Course Leader and Head of Operations are responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of this policy.

The ICCA shall maintain a Student Welfare Group (SWG) whose members understand this policy and are trained in suicide intervention. The SWG will be the point of contact for any significant concern about a student's welfare including suicide risk.

The ICCA shall aim to promote an institution wide awareness of mental health needs and suicide risk.

Through the adoption and implementation of policy and practice the ICCA shall put student wellbeing at the centre of its decision making.

The ICCA shall seek to create and maintain an environment where students with any form of support need have the ability to make contact to communicate that need.

The ICCA shall advertise to students the availability of staff to discuss any welfare concerns personal or otherwise. This awareness will be promoted in ICCA literature and through staff interaction. Such advertisement shall take place from when students start on the Part 1 course.

External sources of support for common problems relating to student welfare shall also be advertised to students.

The ICCA shall encourage open and candid conversation with any students whose wellbeing is potentially at risk to address matters promptly and avoid the occurrence of taboo topics.

The ICCA shall seek to maintain the confidentiality of information disclosed to it by students and shall discuss with students disclosures to other staff or third parties necessary to properly support that student.

In order to protect life or where there is a serious risk of harm to a student or another the ICCA shall contact appropriate third parties (e.g. police or ambulance) regardless of any student's stated desire for confidentiality.

The ICCA shall ensure sufficient staff have Mental Health First Aid training.

All students will be provided with a first point of contact in the form of a personal tutor on both Part 1 and Part 2 of the ICCA Bar Course.

The ICCA shall conduct regular meetings to review new and ongoing concerns relating to student welfare, deciding on such action as is necessary to preserve the welfare of the student. Any intervention deemed necessary must be proportionate.

Where necessary the ICCA shall discuss with a student the availability of and need for external third party support, medical or otherwise.

Staff dealing with students will be asked to be aware of any potential student wellbeing concerns and made aware of the Student Welfare Group membership such that any concerns can be passed to a member of that group.

The ICCA shall ensure sufficient staff have suicide intervention training.

We shall endeavour to ensure that all our staff are suicide aware. This includes informing staff how to escalate concerns to the Student Welfare Group.