



# Shirley High School

## Performing Arts College

"Striving for Excellence"

MF/P/LCH/Social Work in Schools  
10 November 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

### Re: Social Work in Schools

Shirley High School has agreed to take part, along with 7 other secondary schools in Croydon - to be part of an exciting new project called Social Work in Schools (SWiS).

SWiS is a pilot funded by the Department for Education and the objective is to increase ease of access to social work support for children; their families; and professionals by having a Social Worker based in the school. It is hoped that by making Social Workers more visible; accessible and approachable, that we will be able to get the right type of support to young people and their families earlier and therefore prevent issues from escalating.

The Social Worker who will be based in Shirley High School is called Sabrina Cousins. Sabrina is a very experienced and enthusiastic Social Worker who will be available for you to speak to regarding any queries or support you might need. Sabrina will be able to offer a range of support and we envisage this to include:

- I. Group-work/Workshops for students; parents/carers; and staff: These will be on a range of issues depending on identified need;
- II. Advice & Information: Students; parents/carers; and staff can approach Sabrina for advice and information on any issue they feel Sabrina may be able to help with;
- III. Brief Support: There may be a specific issue that a student and/or their family could benefit from a short piece of support with (2-3 sessions);
- IV. Assessment of need and ongoing social work support;

We are very much looking forward to Sabrina joining the school community; getting to know the experience of its young people; and making a positive contribution to the pastoral support that we already have available.

We are planning for Sabrina to start working with Shirley High School on Thursday 12 November 2020. Further details will be made available soon outlining how Sabrina can be contacted.

### Frequently Asked Questions:

- If I, or my child speak to the Social Worker, does this mean my family have an open case with Social Services?
  - o *If a student or parent/carer engages with the Social Worker for group work; advice & information; or brief support, this does not mean your family has an open case with Social Services. There will only be an open case with Social Services if it is identified that a Child & Family Assessment is needed. If this is the case, there would be a full discussion with you in advance of this decision being made where we can obtain your views in relation to consent etc.*
- How will it be decided which students/families the Social Worker will work with?
  - o *Any young person or parent/carer can approach the Social Worker directly if they feel they could benefit from some advice or support. If for any reason the Social Worker is unable to provide this support (e.g. due to capacity) we will make sure you are provided with the relevant advice and support from another service. The Social Worker may also receive referrals from school staff or other professionals where it is felt that a family could benefit from some support.*

**Principal:** Mr T Myton NPQH NPQSL IOMEL CLT PGCE BSc (Hons)

Shirley Church Road, Croydon, CR0 5EF **Tel:** 020 8656 9755 **Web:** [www.shirley.croydon.sch.uk](http://www.shirley.croydon.sch.uk) **Email:** [office@shirley.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:office@shirley.croydon.sch.uk)

Shirley High School is a company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales.

Company No 7837778 Registered Office: Shirley High School, Shirley Church Road, Shirley, Croydon CR0 5EF





# Shirley High School

## Performing Arts College

"Striving for Excellence"

- What about confidentiality? Will conversations be written and recorded anywhere?
  - o For group work, there will not be a detailed recording of the conversations.
  - o For advice & information, an activity log will be kept which will outline brief details of who made contact; the nature of the conversation; and the outcome.
  - o For brief support, there will be notes made detailing the support provided. These will not be recorded on the Social Services database. These will be recorded on a system used by Early Help professionals (Children's Centres; Family Support Workers etc).
  - o For assessment of need and ongoing social work support, this will be recorded in the standard way on the Social Services database.

Should you **not** want your child to access this service, please complete the attached form by Friday 27 November 2020. You can access the form by clicking [here](#). Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this.

Yours sincerely

Ms M Francis  
Senior Vice Principal

**Principal:** Mr T Myton NPQH NPQSL IOMEL CLT PGCE BSc (Hons)

Shirley Church Road, Croydon, CR0 5EF **Tel:** 020 8656 9755 **Web:** [www.shirley.croydon.sch.uk](http://www.shirley.croydon.sch.uk) **Email:** [office@shirley.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:office@shirley.croydon.sch.uk)

Shirley High School is a company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales.

Company No 7837778 Registered Office: Shirley High School, Shirley Church Road, Shirley, Croydon CR0 5EF

