

EEG - Fitness to Study Policy			
Current Status	Operational	Last Review:	July 2023
Responsibility for Review:	Group Head of Student Welfare and Safeguarding	Next Review:	July 2025
Roles Responsible for Review:		Originated:	October 2017
Approved by:	SET Curriculum	Committee:	EEG Educational Excellence Committee
Type of Policy:	Staff / Students	Quality Assured by:	

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This policy applies to all students within Eastern Education Group (EEG) (at each relevant College including West Suffolk College, Abbeygate Sixth Form and One Sixth Form).

Each College aims to be a welcoming, inclusive college for all who learn, work or use our services. We believe in respect for everyone; and want to develop our community by valuing diversity and advancing equality. Each College seeks to ensure that all its students can study and take advantage of the educational opportunities on offer to the best of their abilities in a supportive and inclusive environment. Each College recognises its duties under the Equality Act to ensure that it makes reasonable adjustments to address any substantial disadvantages that students with disabilities may face in accessing the services, facilities and benefits the College has to offer.

- 1.2. In circumstances where there are significant / urgent concerns about the risks posed by a student's physical or mental health, immediate action will need to be taken. This is especially true when a student may be a danger to themselves or to others. In this situation Welfare Officers will assess the risk posed by the students, will make contact with the next of kin, and gain the student's consent where possible. However, the College reserves the right to make this contact even where consent is not given, or the student is unable to give such consent. The student will be advised that they must return home or be taken to a place of safety. Parents will be asked to collect the student and advised to seek medical aid or indeed take them to the safety of a hospital.
- 1.3. In this instance of high risk, a decision about a student's fitness to study will be made by the Welfare Officers who will assess risk or in their absence a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
- 1.4. The student will be required to remain absent from College until their medical practitioner advises that they are fit to return to study and that any potential risks are manageable within the environment in which they are studying. Confirmation of this decision must be made in writing by the GP/hospital where

possible. This would also need to be in the best interests of the student’s progress.

- 1.5. During the period of absence from the College, the Personal Progress Tutor (PPT) responsible for the student will maintain in regular contact with the next of kin to ensure the student’s wellbeing and progress are monitored and any return to college can be managed positively and effectively. All contact will be recorded appropriately by the PPT, and the Welfare Officer updated.
- 1.6. The College will remain mindful of its duty to care and its obligations to students under the Equality Act 2010 including its obligations to make reasonable adjustments as well as the obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998. However, situations may arise where the support needs of a student as a result of changes in their physical or mental health, fall outside the scope of support the College can reasonably be expected to provide (e.g., providing additional staff support in cases of suspected epilepsy).
- 1.7. This is not an exhaustive list. This is usually the case where the behaviour arises out of a health condition or a disability and persists despite all reasonable adjustments having been made to accommodate it.

Revision History – Fitness to Study Policy

Revision date	Reason for revision	Section number	Changes made
July 2023	Upgraded	All	Upgraded from an appendix to the Attendance policy to a Stand-alone policy