



The RCM recognises the range of pressures faced by students today, including students in the performing arts. We seek to provide a learning culture where wellbeing is core to every musician's development, where mental health is discussed openly without stigma, and where robust support mechanisms are clearly signposted and accessible to all students. As a community, we are committed to working together to raise awareness of mental health and promote help-seeking behaviour. Our approach brings together staff expertise, strong lines of communication, training, research (including work by the Centre for Performance Science), student feedback and regular review of processes.

The RCM has longstanding arrangements through a whole-College approach to prevent suicide and to identify students at risk of self-harming, suicide or other risks. There exists a web of support that comes from lines of communication through key contacts: Student Services, Heads of Faculty and of Programmes, personal advisers, the Manager at Prince Consort Village and others that channel the identification of students of concern into a formal response through a standing working group. Established procedures include, where appropriate, referral to or liaison with health professionals and contacting nominated trusted emergency contacts and/or emergency services. Ultimately, in the sad instance of a death or other tragic situation, there are established processes for communicating with and supporting those bereaved.

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9. A network of key RCM staff exist to support students and to communicate with each other, initially informally, including Student Services, Heads of Faculty and of Programmes, the Manager at Prince Consort Village, personal advisers and others that may identify students of concern.
10. Initial responses to concerns may involve referral to one of the trained Mental Health First Aiders, referral to an RCM counsellor, communication with Prince Consort Village staff

where there is reason to believe that the student's state of health makes them unable to pursue their studies, or may cause disruption or serious concern to other members of the RCM community, or has the potential to cause harm to themselves or others, the Group may require the student to take a leave of absence or interrupt studies.

15. In the tragic circumstances of a student death or serious injury or other crisis, the College has a formal procedure in place, as part of its disaster recovery arrangements. This establishes a defined crisis team to deal with the situation, including contacting family and others who need to be informed (while not taking on the role of emergency services), and dealing with any media interest. This also extends to providing support to others in the RCM community, via Student Services and HR.
16. In the event of a student suicide or the College becoming aware of a serious suicide attempt, the College will conduct an immediate review to evaluate its processes and identify whether any lessons can be taken forward to improve support mechanisms and processes.

Kevin Porter
August 2021

Directorate, September 2021
Student Services Manager, January 2023
Next review due 2028

Senate, October 2021, February 2023
Council, November 2021, March 2023