



Leaflet for parents/carers – Your Child at Saffron Valley Collegiate (SVC)

We understand and recognise that this can be difficult for both the pupil and family. Therefore, we want to reassure you that we are here to help and provide the very best opportunities for your child.

A mother says:

'I know how it feels when you get that letter telling you to report for induction at Saffron Valley. Just over a year ago, that was me with my son. You feel ashamed that this has happened. You can't tell anyone. You ask if you could or should have done things differently. You wonder if your child is lying to you. You wonder what's going to happen to them. Will they get recruited into a gang? Beaten up? People know very little about pupil referral units and the work that they do. But they always assume the worst when someone 'goes to centre'.

As usual, the truth is a long, long way from the gossip and the fear. At Saffron Valley your child is going to be nurtured in a way that they have never before experienced in their school career. The staff will work with you and your child to understand all their personal challenges and problems. They know how to address those challenges and to help your child to overcome their problems. Best of all, they will celebrate your child as an individual, supporting them, caring for them and teaching them to how to help themselves, in an environment that is safe, secure and welcoming.

My son loved his time at Saffron Valley. He loved the teachers. He made good friends. He was never bullied. Every day was a good day. I can't recommend the school highly enough to you. Make the most of it, and encourage your child to do the same. And don't be ashamed. Be hopeful!!'

Amanda – Mum

What is SVC?

Saffron Valley Collegiate (SVC) is Croydon's secondary pupil referral unit. It consists of five provisions. The Springboard Tuition provides short-term education to pupils with medical conditions. The Cotelands provision is a longer-term intervention for pupils designated as Emotionally Based School Refusers.

Why has my child been referred to SVC?

This could be for a number of reasons, but it will always be to support your child, and you as a family.

Unfortunately, your child has been identified as not 'mainstream ready'. Sometimes our children can form relationships with their peers, which can be worrying, and specialist provision helps them. Often negative behaviour is an indicator of an unmet need. This can be difficult for both the pupil and family but we want to reassure you that we are here to help, and that the primary purpose of the referral is to ensure that your child gets the best support and opportunities to be successful.

Many pupils who join us find they excel in smaller classes of up to 8 pupils and focus more on their academic subjects. Many pupils progress quickly to the point of being deemed 'mainstream ready' and reintegrate back to mainstream education. We will ensure your child has a holistic and inclusive educational offer whilst in our care.

Pupils Placements with SVC – The Intervention Programme

Your child will be placed on a Short Term Intervention Programme typically for 12 weeks, or 6 weeks in exceptional circumstances. SVC will complete a range of assessments to gain greater insight into your child and explore a range of possible reasons for the behaviours demonstrated. Often negative behaviour is an indicator of an unmet need. We will ensure your child has a holistic and inclusive educational offer whilst in our care and we will provide an extensive list of recommendations for the mainstream school prior to reintegration. In addition, we will provide 6 weeks support when reintegrating your child back into their mainstream school.

It is critical that we all work together, (pupil, parents/carers and schools), to ensure we support, engage and empower the pupil to be successful, both now and in their future.

The Intervention Programme Journey

