

[Student Welfare Officer]

A dedicated student welfare officer or at least an administration staff member with student welfare included in their portfolio is a prudent measure to reduce risk with under 18s and can definitely pay off in the long run. Staff who speak the languages of your target student cohort are also a good investment.

Another advantage of having a dedicated student welfare officer is that these staff members can be trained, for example through a Mental Health First Aid course, in how to recognise when students are experiencing mental health issues and when these students need to be referred to a registered child or adolescent psychologist. It can be devastating when a vulnerable student falls under the radar.

Dedicated student welfare officers can check and monitor young students on a day to day basis or through regular lunch meetings, for instance. A student welfare officer can also take some of the pressure off teachers so that teachers can focus on students' language proficiency development.