Answer Guidance

# Chapter 2: Being a nursing student

## Activity answer guidance

### Activity 2.1

Sameer is on placement, helping his practice supervisor to care for a group of six children. The mother of one of the children Sameer is caring for is concerned about the child in the bed opposite and asks: “Is he very sick, nurse? What is wrong with him? Will he get better?”

 How should Sameer answer these questions?

#### Answer guidance:

*Due to his duty of confidentiality, Sameer cannot disclose any details to the mother. However, as she is showing concern it would be entirely appropriate to assure her that the child is being well cared for. If Sameer felt he did not know how best to answer these questions he should ask his mentor’s advice so they can work out together exactly what to say.*

### Activity 2.2

Connie is worried about starting her new placement. She is managing her studies well but, due to her dyslexia, finds it difficult to remember all of the information relating to the people she is caring for. When it is very busy, she worries about forgetting what she has been asked to do.

How can Connie help her specific learning needs to be met?

#### Answer guidance:

*It is very common to be concerned before starting a new placement; mentors will expect this and remember the feeling from when they were student nurses. Connie should be proactive in managing her learning, sharing the fact that she is dyslexic with her mentor and telling them that she finds it difficult to remember all of the information relating to the patients she is caring for, and, when it is very busy, she worries about forgetting what she has been asked to do. Connie’s mentor will be able to help her develop her abilities in these areas and suggest that they apply strategies outlined in the RCN (2006) toolkit.*

## Case study answer guidance

### Case Study 2.1: Amina and Dave

During Fresher’s Week, Amina and Dave attend the ‘dress as what you want to be when you finish your course’ party. They had collected their nursing uniforms a few days before the party, so they wore them to the party. It was great—meeting other students, making the most of the cut-price drinks in the bar, and putting red dye and washing-up liquid in the fountain in the university square.

Do Amina and Dave’s actions uphold the NMC (2018a) Code? If not, why not?

#### Answer guidance:

*Amina and Dave have to remember that they must uphold the NMC (2011) Guidance on professional conduct at all times, not just whilst they are on placement or in class. Their actions of drinking alcohol in a bar and putting red dye and washing-up liquid in the fountain in the university square, whilst wearing their nursing uniforms, does not uphold the reputation of their profession. A nursing uniform should only be worn when on duty caring for patients, and whilst it is not an expectation that nursing students and registered nurses never drink alcohol or have fun with their friends, they must always remember that their actions may be seen by members of the public who will expect them to act in a responsible manner. To become a registered nurse and remain so all nurses must abide by the NMC Fitness to Practise regulations, so it is essential to ensure at all times that your conduct is professional.*

### Case Study 2.2: Billie

Billie is at the end of the first year of her nursing course and is doing very well, enjoying attending placements and university sessions. On Saturday night, she drove home after spending an evening socialising with friends and was stopped by the police and breathalysed. To her horror, the result of the breathalyser put her over the limit and the police intend to take her to court for “driving under the influence of alcohol.”

Is it necessary for Billie to tell her university what has happened?

#### Answer guidance:

*Billie must tell her university what has happened, firstly because her ability to act as a professional is under doubt and secondly because it is likely that she has already signed an agreement with the university (at the start of her course) saying that if anything such as this occurs she will tell them. Whilst it could be considered that Billie has already failed to abide by the principles of the NMC (2011) Guidance on professional conduct by driving under the influence of alcohol, not informing her university of the situation further fails to uphold the principles, as she then is also not being open and honest. These circumstances are very serious and it is likely that her university will review her case in light of the NMC Fitness practice regulations, to ensure that she is fit to remain on the course. As long as Billie’s conduct has been exemplary apart from this incident it is possible that she will be given a formal warning but allowed to continue.*

### Case study 2.3: Susie and Ellen

During the second week of their nursing course, whilst traveling home on the bus Susie and Ellen discuss the last lecture of the day, which they found very boring and irrelevant. They really couldn’t understand why they needed to listen to what Kate Brown, the lecturer, was saying, and they didn’t think she was a very good teacher. When they get home they continue their discussion on Facebook, as they want to find out what other students on their course think, with Susie posting “Kate Brown has to be the most boring lecturer so far – she doesn’t even seem to know what she is talking about,” and Ellen adds, “have you seen her shoes? They are so old-fashioned they should be in a museum!!”

Three days later Susie and Ellen both receive letters requesting them to attend a formal meeting with the Head of their School. What do you think is likely to be the reason for this request?

#### Answer guidance:

*Susie and Ellen have been asked to attend a formal meeting with the Head of their School because they have failed to uphold the NMC Standards on professional conduct and confidentiality. Their Facebook postings do not treat the lecturer in question with dignity or respect and they are not upholding the reputation of their profession by addressing this issue through Facebook. In addition to this, in naming the lecturer they are breaching confidentiality.*

*All of these issues are very serious. It is likely that the Head of School will consider their actions in light of the NMC Fitness to practice regulations, questioning whether they are both fit to remain on the course. It is possible that, as Susie and Ellen are only at the very start of their nursing course, they may be treated leniently, and could be given a formal warning but allowed to remain on the course as long as they apologise to the lecturer in question and learn from this experience. If they had been more experienced nursing students, further on in year one or years two or three, acting in this manner may well have resulted in them being removed from the course.*