



## **Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults Code of Practice**

### **Objective**

To provide a safe environment for children and vulnerable adults within college premises and in activities undertaken with the approval of the college. For these purposes, a child is a person under 18, and a vulnerable adult is a person who is receiving any form of health care, and whose ability to protect themselves from neglect, abuse or violence is significantly impaired on account of disability, illness or otherwise.

### **Premises**

The college will take all reasonable steps to ensure that its premises are safe for children and vulnerable adults whose presence can be reasonably anticipated.

### **Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006**

Members of staff are reminded that, under Sexual Offences Act 2003, activities of a sexual nature between a child and someone who is in a "position of trust" constitute an offence, even though the child is capable of giving consent (that is, is 16 or over). A person is in a position of trust if they are "regularly involved in caring for, training or supervising" another person in an education institution (SOA 2003, s. 22(3)(a)). This could be taken to apply to a tutor or other personal advisor.

### **Duty of care**

The college will discharge its duty of care to ensure that it will not permit any activity which puts any child or vulnerable adult at risk of abuse, understanding that abuse can be physical, sexual, emotional, or neglect. In the furtherance of this duty it will take proper care that:

- persons who undertake any welfare role with regard to students or members of staff on behalf of the college have been demonstrated to have appropriate qualities to perform such a role
- members of staff who come into contact with children or vulnerable adults do not do so in circumstances in which there is risk of abuse
- any allegations or evidence of harm to a child or vulnerable adult will be taken seriously and investigated

## **Confidentiality**

The College will respect the privacy and confidentiality of any child or vulnerable adult in as far as this is consistent with its obligation to discharge its duty of care and statutory obligations.

## **The code of practice of the University**

The College takes note of the University's Code of Practice on Safeguarding <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/cops/safeguarding/safeguardingcop/> and will observe it in as far as it applies to the College.

All College policies are considered with reference to the Government's Equality Act 2010: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/equality-act-2010-guidance>

Appeals information: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/conduct?wssl=1>

Sexual Offences Act 2003:

[http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/42/pdfs/ukpga\\_20030042\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/42/pdfs/ukpga_20030042_en.pdf)

Reviewed and approved by the Governing Body May 2020