

ST CATHERINE'S COLLEGE

Code of Practice on the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults

This document describes the College's Code of Practice with respect to the protection of children and vulnerable adults. It supplements and should be read in conjunction with other the College's other policies and rules, including those governing harassment.

1. Objective

The College is committed to providing a safe environment for children and vulnerable adults. For these purposes, "children" means persons under the age of 18, and "vulnerable adults" means persons aged 18 or over whose ability to protect themselves from neglect, abuse or violence is significantly impaired on account of disability, illness, or otherwise.

2. Undertakings

In fulfillment of this commitment, the College will:

- i. Take all reasonable steps to ensure that its premises are safe for children and vulnerable adults;
- ii. Comply with its statutory obligations with respect to the protection of children and vulnerable adults, including its obligations under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006;
- iii. Ensure that any conduct or activity which puts any child or vulnerable adult at risk of abuse or exploitation is not sanctioned, whatever (sexual, physical, emotional or other) form such abuse or exploitation may take;
- iv. Ensure that any allegation or evidence of abuse or exploitation of a child or vulnerable adult is taken seriously and investigated in a manner that respects the privacy and confidentiality of the child or vulnerable adult in so far as doing so is consistent with the College's duty of care and other legal obligations;
- v. Discharge its duty of care to ensure that staff:
 - a. do not spend excessive amounts of time alone with children or vulnerable adults away from others; and
 - b. do not take children or vulnerable adults to their homes, except in the case of an emergency, and with the full knowledge and consent of the parents, guardian, or other appropriately authorized person;
- vi. Discharge its duty of care to ensure that all persons having a welfare role with respect to students and/or members of staff have been demonstrated to be appropriately qualified for such role.

3. Further information

The College takes note of the University's Safeguarding Code of Practice:

<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/cops/safeguarding/safeguardingcop/>

and will observe that Code in so far as it applies to the College. It has nominated the Home Bursar as the person to deal with child and vulnerable adult protection issues affecting the College.