



BOARDING PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES

POLICY INTENDED FOR:	Staff
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POLICY IMPLEMENTED BY:	Principal
POLICY MONITORED BY:	Principal, Deputy Principals, Students Services Management and House Parents
REVIEWED BY:	Principal
REVIEWED DATE:	August 2021
CONSULTATION WITH:	Senior Leadership Team (SLT)
RECORD OF CHANGES & ADDITIONS:	<p>Jan 18: Removed the line: <i>'for the academic year 2015-2016 it is planned to have males and females residing in the separate halves of the North Block'</i>. Removed Academic Director and replaced with Principal.</p> <p>May 19: Removed the line: <i>A security company also provides additional support during the evenings</i>. Changed to: <i>Security staff also provide additional support during the evenings</i>. Included line: <i>Food provided at the college is Halal</i>.</p>
NEXT REVIEW:	August 2022

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STATEMENT OF BOARDING PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES

Boarding is a very important and integral part of the college's provision. Our ethos is one of full boarding and this enhances our ability to provide an outstanding education in its broadest sense. Boarding is integral to organisation and development of the college and its ongoing success.

Our boarding principles are based on our core beliefs of Integrity, Positivity, Respect & Compassion and Service. Each member of the college community is treated as an individual and treated with respect by other students and the staff. The college is an inspiring place to be with motivated staff, stimulating and relevant courses and excellent facilities. We support our student's individual educational needs, goals and welfare securing the best opportunities and outcomes. Every student's journey includes lifelong learning, continuous personal development and an awareness of other people and communities.

Our principles of boarding are designed to support our college aims and values:

- To safeguard and promote the welfare of all by providing an environment that is free from unacceptable dangers and hazards
- To support students in developing resilience, resourcefulness, responsibility, and adaptability
- For boarders to feel able to approach members of staff seeking advice, counsel and support as needed
- To cultivate relationships based on openness and acceptance of others in which positive relationships thrive and where bullying and disharmony are not tolerated
- To provide accommodation that is comfortable and suited to the needs of boarders and which provides levels of privacy within a supportive community
- To communicate frequently with parents, success as well as disappointment, good news as well as bad

Oxford International College is a thriving community where students adhere to high standards of behaviour and show respect for each other and their environment. The 'Promoting Good Behaviour, Sanctions and Discipline Policy' gives guidance and clarity, and students are aware they are expected to comply with these rules. These apply to all age groups and at all times when the student is at college, representing the college or associated with the college at any time.

Central to boarding life is learning to show respect for each other and the community. All students should demonstrate care for the health, safety, emotional and physical wellbeing of everyone within the community. When a student does not meet these expectations, the college looks to investigate and respond in a timely, appropriate and sensitive manner.

Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning and to make the most of the wide-ranging opportunities made available. We develop qualities of teamwork and leadership through our extensive super-curricular and extra-curricular activities as well as through life in our boarding community. Students are aware that they are expected to be ready to learn and to participate in college activities. College sets out clear guidance on issues such as standard of dress, boarding routines, punctuality, and behaviour. All students have members of staff whom they can turn to for guidance and clarification. All staff and students have the right to feel secure and be treated with respect, particularly the vulnerable. Harassment and bullying will not be tolerated.

At Oxford International College (OIC) students can choose to stay at Wavy Gate Student Accommodation which is a new modern purpose-built facility within a short walking distance of the college teaching facility at 1-5 London Place, Thames Street student accommodation and Between Towns Court Student Accommodation. Travel to and from Thames Street and Between Towns Court is by a dedicated bus service. Students can also stay with carefully selected host families but, currently because of Covid 19, no students are staying with host families. For students who are younger than sixteen years of age host family accommodation in conjunction with private fostering is available. The college maintains positive and active links with all relevant social services.

The college aims to provide a secure, comfortable, and nurturing environment for all students that supports their welfare, wellbeing, and academic progress. Our aim is for boarding to be a positive enriching experience that encourages students to develop self-confidence and a sense of individual responsibility while at the same time enabling them to study effectively and to progress academically on their chosen course.

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) is responsible for producing the accommodation, welfare and safeguarding guidelines and policies. The residential team consists of the Head of Boarding, House Parents, Residential Wardens and Day Relief staff who have operational responsibility for the organisation and running of the hall of residences. The full time Student Services Manager works very closely with the residential team. Security staff also provide additional support during the evenings and weekends.

BOARDING PROVISION

The Wavy Gate Student Accommodation site at 4 Collins Street, Oxford, OX4 1LG is owned by A2 Dominion and comprises a fully enclosed gated community where students gain entrance using a personalised programmable fob. Oxford International College leases and manages the North Block where our students currently reside. Ninety students can reside here, and the accommodation is a short walk to the college.

The Thames Street Student Accommodation at 3 Thames Street Oxford, Oxford, OX 1 1EQ is owned by A2 Dominion and is a gated community where students gain entry using a personalised programmable fob. OIC completely occupies this site. The site is leased and managed by OIC. Seventy students can reside here.

The Between Towns Court site at 13 Between Towns Court Road, Oxford, OX4 3LX is similarly a gated community. BTC is a shared site and managed by Fresh. Sixty students can reside here.

At Wavy Gate and Between Towns Court students are aged between 16 and 19 years of age. Students under 18 years of age do not share accommodation with those over 18 years of age. Students are also separated by gender. Younger students are housed at Thames Street. As part of our ethos and vision we strive to support our students' goals, securing the best opportunities and outcomes.

Boarding arrangements regarding room allocation are initially made by our Student Services Manager. Gender, age, programme of study, individual requests and known medical conditions are all taken into consideration. Prior to arrival students are sent a pre-arrival guide, a student handbook and the Rules and Regulations of college accommodation. When they arrive students can request to see what other rooms and studios are available. Students can request to change rooms. Requests are made via the Head of Boarding, House Parent and Student Services Manager. Requests can be made at any time or at the regular student welfare meetings held both at college and in the accommodation.

Accommodation comprises single en-suite rooms and studio flats. Single rooms are arranged in cluster flats and each flat shares a large kitchen/dining room where students can cook for themselves should they wish. The kitchen/dining rooms also have a small relaxation area with soft furnishings. Kitchen/dining rooms are furnished to a high standard with an oven, microwave, individual student storage cupboards, two fridge freezers, an iron and ironing board and cleaning materials. They are also equipped with a starter pack of china, cutlery, and cookware.

Individual student rooms and studios have their own lockable door. Each cluster flat has its own lockable door, with a door viewer, which can only be opened by the students that reside within that cluster flat. The entrance door to the cluster flats is by programmable fobs ensuring a higher level of security. Should students require valuables to be stored, the college has a safe. Individual rooms at Thames Street have small safes within the rooms.

The individual bedrooms are tastefully furnished in a contemporary modern style. Each room has a double bed, desk, bookshelves, and a wardrobe that has both hanging space and shelving for storage. The en-suite comprises a shower, toilet, and hand basin. The larger studio flats are similar and include a kitchen area with an oven, microwave, and fridge. Several studio flats have disabled access and facilities. One set of bed linen per room as well as a duvet and pillows are provided. All communal areas are cleaned weekly. As preparation for independent living, students are responsible for the cleaning of their own rooms. A room cleaning package may be requested.

At Wavy Gate A2 Dominion is responsible for all the maintenance and inspection of the facilities on the site. The cleaning of the communal areas is by A2 Dominion staff who are enhanced DBS checked and under the supervision of the accommodation office. College is always given advance notification of any maintenance work scheduled. If access is needed to student rooms a minimum of twenty-four hours' notice is given to the students concerned via email, a note, personal communication or via the student portal. A2 Dominion works with known contractors who are DBS checked. When they are on site, they are under the supervision of the A2 Dominion staff. If an emergency contractor is brought on site, the college is notified, and they are supervised by A2 Dominion staff and if this is not possible then the SSM goes across or another member of staff is sent across to Wavy Gate to provide the supervision. Full records are kept and available for inspection. Records of all tests/inspections are kept in the A2 Dominion office. These are regularly inspected by the residential team. This includes the fire alarm system and emergency lighting. Residents will evacuate immediately when the fire alarm sounds. The fire alarm system is tested weekly by A2 Dominion staff. The OIC residential team has received training in the use of the fire panel. OIC residential staff run fire evacuations every term and records are kept on site. The residential team have all been trained in the procedure for the safe checking of a room should they believe there is a fire within.

At Thames Street A2Domiopn and the facilities team for OIC run the site together with the Facilities Manager having overall responsibility. At Between Town Court the Fresh on-site staff are responsible for site management.

Student rooms are inspected regularly by the House Parent/Wardens on a rota after the weekly kitchen meetings. If a student's room is unsatisfactory, they are asked to clean/tidy their room. For the end of term inspection forty-eight hours notification is given via email and student portal. If a room is found not to meet expected standards the student concerned is given twenty-four hours to rectify the situation. If upon reinspection the room is still not to standard it will be professionally cleaned, and the student charged.

The residential House Parents and Wardens are there to provide supervision, security, welfare, and pastoral support to students. The House Parent aims to ensure that the accommodation is a safe, nurturing, and positive environment. All students have a monthly kitchen meeting with the House Parent in their cluster flat. They are held in the evenings after supper on a rotational basis. The meetings are designed to allow students to discuss life both at college and at the accommodation. Students are encouraged to express their concerns, worries and issues. It is an opportunity for students to discuss or raise any issues such as dietary requirements, religious or cultural concerns. Urgent information is passed onto the SLT and Student Services Manager.

In addition, students have individual meetings with the House Parent, and this allows issues of a more personal nature to be raised. Students can meet with the House Parent at their request during the evenings or at weekends. All House Parents carry a dedicated phone as do wardens. All residential team members have details of the emergency contact details of the students. Should a student wish to call their parent/guardian a private land line is available at the college.

A Missing Persons procedure exists should a student not be present at check-in and include:

1. Check in the rest of the students and while on rounds see if they are in another student's room or kitchen etc.
2. Recheck the student's room
3. Phone /Text the student and if they respond ask them where they are and to report in. If they do not respond leave a voice mail message.

4. Check the site to see if they are present
5. Check the exeat file to ensure that nothing has been missed
6. Ask their friends if they know where they are
7. Let the House Parent know who will attempt to contact them again.
8. Contact the Student Services Manager to see if they additional information.
9. Contact a member of the SLT
10. Contact the Police
11. Contact parent

The missing persons documentation is completed and updated during these procedures.

The House Parent and Wardens have all the contact details of the SLT. A central record of all the student emergency contact numbers is available. Guidance is provided on how to deal with a medical emergency.

Students read and sign the Accommodation Rules and Regulations. This forms part of their induction. The regulations are updated as needed and students are asked to read and sign updates. Students understand the expected standards of conduct and behaviour. Rules relating to specific unacceptable behaviour are clearly stated, both verbally and in writing with the associated sanction that results from not complying. Students are made aware of who the safeguarding officers are both at college and at the hall of residence. All safeguarding officers receive training. When dealing with transgressions students are always informed of what they are alleged to have done and are given the opportunity to present their side of the matter. For serious breaches of conduct and behaviour, a formal investigation will be held. Bullying and harassment is not tolerated by the college. It is also not acceptable for there to be any initiation ceremonies that cause pain, humiliation, or anxiety. The college will respond to all incidents.

For any student asked to leave the hall of residence they remain under the care of the college and will be supported by the college until the college is able to return them to the care of their parent or other accommodation arranged by the parent, guardian, or responsible agent.

Students clearly understand the sanctions and disciplinary procedure that operates at college and in the halls of residence. This is regularly communicated to students and they sign to acknowledge that they understand the procedures.

Students are not allowed to stay away overnight from the hall of residence without permission. Exeat forms need to be completed that detail:

- The reason for the absence
- Parental permission given
- Where going with all contact details
- Departure time/date
- Expected return time/date
- Mode of transport
- Current student contact details

The exeat forms are approved by the Academic Director, Principal and SLT and can be accessed by the boarding team via Reach system.

The House Parent and Wardens receive training in first aid, child protection/safeguarding and fire awareness. In the evenings, an additional level of security and student welfare provision is provided by security personnel.

Should problems or concerns arise then an incident and pastoral report may be generated by the House Parents, Wardens or Security staff. Events that require a student to enter the discipline process are dealt with by the Senior Leadership Team, Principal and Deputy Principals. Any sanctions are recorded on the student's file and in the central sanctions record.

The Head of Boarding and House Parents help organise the Welfare and Pastoral Care Programme. A variety of themes are explored and includes 'Keeping Safe in Oxford' and 'Sex, Relationships and the Internet'. Guest speakers such as the Community Support Officers are invited to speak. The Student Services Manager liaises with the students and the student college council to ensure that there is an activities programme available for them.

Meals are provided at the college in the dining rooms. The college has a contract for catering provision with Mr Montchai Karmakharm as the Service Provider. Students are consulted regarding food quality, quantity, and dietary requirements such as halal, vegetarian and vegan. Their views are listened to and responded to. Catering staff have appropriate COSHH training and allergen awareness. It is the responsibility of Mr Karmakharm to ensure all catering staff have the right to work in the UK. It is the responsibility of the college to complete the DBS checks and safeguarding training.

HOST FAMILY PROVISION

Post September 2020: No students currently reside with host families owing to Covid 19.

In a non-Covid year students may choose to stay with a host family. The college works with a small number of host families on a regular and ongoing basis. Most host families are recruited through referral, usually by existing host families. The college tries to provide a range of host family experiences and goes to a great deal of effort to match the students' needs and expectations with those of the host family. The age, type of student, gender, and any special requirements such as diet are all considered. From the student application form and emails exchanges the Student Services Manager is aware of dietary requirements, attitude to pets, allergies, and any health concerns.

In selecting host families, the Student Services Manger considers location of the family home, size and type of family home, family size, composition and facilities available such as room size and number of bathrooms. The Student Services Manager will make an appointment to visit the host family in order to assess whether it is suitable and appropriate to meet the needs of our students. The college provides guidelines as to what the college expects. Regular contact between the college and the Host Family is maintained.

Host families are required to complete a Host Family application form. References, Gas Safety Certificate, Fire Risk Assessment, proof of identity and DBS checks are carried out. All members of the family household aged 16 plus are DBS checked. If the family is considered suitable to have students under 16 and they are willing, then the Private Fostering procedures are implemented. Where Private Fostering arrangements are needed for a student the Student Services Manager writes to the parents explaining the process.

For students aged under 16 the host family confirms in writing that they are willing to host younger students and understand all that this entails. A copy of their passport/s needs to be notarised. When a

student has been allocated and their arrival date is known the Student Services Manager informs Oxford Social Services by sending a letter of 'Notification of Arrival of an International Student aged under 16.

The college has a positive working relationship with Social Services. When the student's arrival date is confirmed the Student Services Manager sends a completed Private Fostering form to Social Services. Information includes copies of the student's passport and visa; medical consent form signed by the parents, parental and agent contact forms, guardian information and completed activities form.

Documentation includes copies of the host family DBS information. Social Services write back confirming receipt of this information.

Usually within seven days of the student's arrival Social Services will schedule a visit to the host family residence. At this visit they re-check/confirm all the documentation. They then meet with the student. Subsequent visits are scheduled every six weeks at the college. The meetings are between the student and Social Services.

Visits to host families by the Student Services Manager are every six months for inspection purposes. All students have monthly welfare meetings with the Student Services Manager and relevant information is fed back to the host families. Students are provided with breakfast and dinner. They have personal laundry done once a week, their rooms are cleaned, and sheets changed weekly. Host families have the Student Services Manager's emergency telephone number, college number, Principal's and DSL numbers.

Oxford International College aims to provide a secure, comfortable, and nurturing environment for all students, both boarding and host family provision, that supports their welfare, wellbeing, and academic progress. Our aim is for all students to have a positive enriching experience that encourages them to develop self-confidence and a sense of individual responsibility while at the same time enabling them to study effectively and to progress academically on their chosen course.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about boarding principles and practices at OIC please speak with Kim Terrar.

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Principal

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