

## **Linacre Policy on Children**

For the purpose of this policy a child is defined as anyone under the age of 18 years (consistent with the definition in the Children Act 2004).

Many of our College members and guests have children. Children are welcome in most parts of the College and at most events when accompanied by their parents or an adult with parental responsibility. Anyone bringing a child into the College should remember that this is a place of work, quiet study and residence and they should ensure that their child behaves in a way which does not disrupt these activities. The College wants to ensure that a child is safe and well cared for during their visit. The purpose of this policy is to lay out rules and guide-lines for behaviour and safety.

### **Dining Hall**

Children are welcome to eat in College at lunch time and ordinary dinners. There are three high chairs available for infants. There are baby changing facilities in both male and female toilets adjacent to the Dining Hall.

We do not feel it is appropriate to bring children under the age of 14 to formal guest night dinners as the emphasis at these events is on adult conversation. Often College members are bringing guests into College for this purpose and even a well-behaved child is a distraction. The Common Room may be able to help you find a child-minder if sufficient notice is provided.

Children of graduands are welcome at their graduation lunch in College. Children aged seven and over are welcome to attend the Degree Ceremony in the Sheldonian Theatre, and they will require their own ticket.

### **Common Room**

Children are welcome in the large Common Room, but must be accompanied at all times by a parent or by someone with parental responsibility.

It is illegal for someone under 18 to buy an alcoholic drink from the College bar, or for the bar staff to sell alcohol to someone who is 18 or over but who then gives the alcohol to someone under 18.

### **College Gardens**

Children and their parents are welcome to enjoy the College gardens. You are asked to remember that many offices and study-bedrooms overlook the gardens and noisy games can be disruptive for those trying to work. Please do not leave children unsupervised in the gardens.

The fountain in the Tanner Quad is very attractive to small children. Children need to be closely supervised when nearby as experience shows that the low surrounding wall does not prevent them from falling in.

### **Children as overnight guests in College rooms**

Children may stay as overnight guests in both student and college guest rooms. The normal rule of no more than three consecutive nights as an overnight guest in a student room applies. Overnight guests in College rooms who are less than 18 years of age must be accompanied at all times by a

member of the College and should never be left alone in public space or a private room. The guest's name and their College host's contact details (including a mobile phone number) must be left with the Senior Student and Reception. Students are responsible for the conduct of their non-College guests. Babies who cry frequently, particularly at night, are likely to disturb those living and working around them. It would therefore not be appropriate for children of this age to be overnight guests in College.

Children younger than five years should use a mattress protector when sleeping in a College bed. This will be provided, on request by the Housekeeping Department.

Children are only permitted to live with their parents in the three family accommodation units at West Grove, 8 Bradmore Road and the Annexe at Neil Fraser-Bell House.

### **Child-free zones**

Children should not be taken into the Library or Small Common Room at any time.

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> January 2016