



## **Policy on Children**

June 2021

## Linacre Policy on Children

*The following Code was approved by the Governing Body of the College on 16 June 2021 and takes effect forthwith.*

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. As a postgraduate college, Linacre does not normally admit any student under the age of 18, and therefore does not have a safeguarding policy for children in place. This means that the College cannot act *in loco parentis* for any child, and any child brought onto the college site must be supervised by a parent, carer or guardian at all times. 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 purpose of this policy is to lay out rules and guide-lines for both behaviour and safety for all children visiting the College. If you would like to discuss any particular concerns or needs prior to a visit to College please contact [equalities@linacre.ox.ac.uk](mailto:equalities@linacre.ox.ac.uk).

### 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 the 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.

## **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 parent, carer or guardian 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 Annexe at Neil Fraser-Bell House.

## **Child-free zones**

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

