



Pastoral Care Policy AYE27

Version	Date approved	Approved by	Date of Review
1.1	August 12, 2025	Administration	July 1, 2026

How has this policy changed from version 1.0?

Version 1.1 includes a separate U18s section, further clarifying that Selden College is an adult learning environment. It also contains a new sub-section on Disclosure and Barring Service checks.

**Mission:**

Selden College exists to graduate faithful Christian men and women who are prepared to act justly, skilfully and magnanimously in each and every office, private and public, in peace and war.

What is this policy document about?

This Pastoral Care Policy sets out the way Selden College seeks to care for and protect its applicants, students, faculty, staff, volunteers and visitors and includes sections on under 18s and Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks.

Context:

Selden College aims to offer undergraduate and postgraduate [awards](#) to adults. However, it is likely that some students may study at Selden when they are temporarily under the age of 18. This policy makes it clear that Selden College is an adult environment and that students are expected to behave maturely and as faithful Christians. Whilst the Pastoral Care Lead has overall responsibility for this policy all Selden College students, faculty and staff have a duty to care for and to protect others. Selden College is an educational institution that seeks after truth; as such, it is expected that students will encounter ideas and books, particularly those coming from different times and places than their own, that may offend, disturb, and challenge. This policy should be read in conjunction with the [Disciplinary and Complaints Procedures for Students](#).

Aim:

Selden College aims to create and maintain a caring and healthy environment within which to work, study and visit.

Principles:

This Pastoral Care Policy is based on three guiding principles explained below with practice examples.

1. Vigilance

As an Christian academic community devoted to the worship of God and the advancement of learning, students, faculty and staff at Selden College will be vigilant in the pursuit and formation of virtue. For the avoidance of doubt, examples of uncaring or unhealthy behaviours (vices) are not limited to:

Physical violence

Sexual immorality



Coercive and controlling behaviour
Self-harm, including drunkenness and the use of intoxicating drugs (e.g. marijuana)
Cheating/plagiarism/collusion
Overt disrespect toward other students, faculty, staff or visitors
Unruly and disruptive behaviour both inside and outside of college.

2. Requirements

All students and employees will be required to adhere to this Pastoral Care Policy as well as appropriate Codes of Conduct as outlined below.

Pastoral Care Guidance:

In practice, all students, faculty and staff will undertake a Selden College induction that includes pastoral care guidance. Students, faculty and staff will be required to read a copy of this Pastoral Care policy.

Safe recruitment:

Selden College will provide job descriptions/personal specifications for advertised posts, insist on the completion of application forms and follow up references. Under normal circumstances, student, faculty, and staff interviews will be completed by at least two Selden College employees. Faculty and staff applicants will be asked to verify their qualifications, complete DBS checks and have probationary periods where appropriate. Students, faculty and staff will be asked to sign relevant [Codes of Conduct](#). Parents/guardians of prospective students under the age of 18 at the time of enrolment will be asked to sign confirmation of the contents of the application form, and a parental agreement including an acknowledgement that Selden College will not act in *loco parentis* should the student be admitted.

DBS checks:

At Selden College a basic level DBS check is required for faculty, staff and volunteers. Normally, students will not be asked to complete DBS checks.

A basic level DBS check (only) is required for faculty, staff and volunteers as Selden College is not classed as a 'regulated' establishment nor is it deemed to have roles in 'regulated' activity with either [children](#) or [adults](#).

3. Responsibility

All Selden College students, faculty and staff are responsible to create and maintain a healthy environment within which to work, study and visit.



In practice, if you have an immediate concern that threatens an individual's life then you should contact emergency services on 999 without delay, before informing the Pastoral Lead/Officer.

If you have any concerns or concerns regarding the safety and well-being of a student, volunteer, member of faculty or staff, please contact the Pastoral Lead/Officer within 24 hours of the concern coming to your attention.

It is important that sensible pastoral boundaries are respected by students, volunteers, faculty and staff. For instance, most pastoral conversations should be held during working hours and in observable, mutually acceptable spaces. Any information shared should remain confidential unless disclosure is required by law or there is serious risk of harm or injury.

In specific instances where professional help may be required (e.g. a student may be a danger to themselves and/or is experiencing or exhibiting significant emotional or mental disturbance or distress), the college will refer the student for assessment and initial intervention to Dr David Field, an Oxford-based counsellor/psychotherapist and a registered member of the [BACP](#).

Under 18s

Selden College is an adult, higher education institution, offering degree-level or higher [awards](#). We welcome applications from those able to thrive in this environment, including those who may be temporarily under the age of 18 when they start their studies. Technically, under 18s in England are lawfully considered to be '*children*'. However, the attendance of '*children*' at Selden College is considered '*incidental*' as they transition to lawful adulthood. Any advice or guidance given to under 18s is classed at adult-level advice related to their educational well-being. This policy makes it clear that Selden College is an adult environment and that all students are expected to behave maturely and as faithful Christians.

Nevertheless, understanding that the difference between adult and child safeguarding is an adult's right to self-determination, we have made a few special arrangements for under 18s wishing to study at Selden College.

- Parents/guardians of prospective students under the age of 18 at the time of enrolment, will be asked to sign confirmation of the contents of the application form.



- Parents/guardians countersignature of the student's signed *offer letter*, should the student accept an offer of a place to study.
- Signed agreement from parents/guardians that Selden College will not act in *loco parentis* should the student be offered a place to study.
- Parents/guardians who live overseas should nominate a UK-based guardian for any student temporarily under the age of 18 in case of an emergency.