

Pastoral Care for 16 and 17-Year-Old Students in Adult Classes

We recognise that student welfare and safety is of paramount importance at the school, and we work to ensure the safety of 16 and 17-year-old students in all aspects of school life. We provide extra supervision for students aged 16 and 17 who join adult classes.

There are some key differences between classes for young learners (ages 11-17) and adult classes (18+). More information outlining these can be found on the **Parental Consent form** and in the **Under 18s Student Handbook** and **Over 18s Student Handbook**. There will be some social activities related to the course which 16 and 17-year-olds cannot take part in because of their age.

16 and 17-year-old students will be given a specific induction before joining adult classes to highlight the differences in course content and atmosphere compared to young learner classes. A separate briefing is also given to the other students in the adult class to make them aware of their duty of care and expectations regarding their behaviour around under 18s. Teachers will ensure that all course materials are relevant and appropriate for under 18s.

Staff and students will follow the school's Code of Conduct and communicate appropriately with 16 and 17-year-olds. If a teacher or another student in the adult class is concerned about a 16 or 17-year-old student, they should inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who will follow up on the issue with the student and try to resolve it.

Even though 16 and 17-year-old students can join adult classes, they will still be required to sign in and sign out at the office every day. Their attendance will be monitored and the DSL will oversee their safety and wellbeing whilst they are here. The DSL will give them a weekly tutorial meeting to help keep in regular contact with them, check if they have any questions, and to give them an opportunity to raise any concerns. If they have any urgent problems then the Safeguarding team is always on hand to help. The school's attendance and lateness policy applies to all under 18s, regardless of their class. Full information about pastoral care for under 18s - including 16 and 17-year-olds in adult classes - can be found in the **Under 18s Handbook**, **Over 18s Student Handbook**, and on the **Parental Consent form**.