

SAFEGUARDING AT THE ARTS UNIVERSITY BOURNEMOUTH

Statement of intent

The Arts University Bournemouth (AUB), as a provider of higher education, further education and extra-curricular programmes has a legal and moral duty to ensure the health, safety and welfare of students, including those who are young or vulnerable, when studying, working, or engaging in activities or events at AUB or externally supported by AUB.

The University's Safeguarding Policy sets out our commitments, and how these are managed and monitored. The page below sets out key operational elements of our safeguarding practice.

Students on course

Under-18s with obvious injuries or signs of harm

Under child protection legislation, we have an obligation to report to the Police any instance where an under-18 attends the University with an unexplained injury or with obvious signs of harm. We shall report all such cases to the relevant authorities.

We acknowledge that such injuries may be the result of entirely unexceptional activity (such as playing sport, or simply a domestic accident) but the University recognises that it has a duty to report all such incidents. It is for the Police to determine the level of investigation which is then required.

This does not affect our duty of care, and a tutor will normally ask the student about the injury and note the explanation (and report it to safeguarding@aub.ac.uk). If the tutor is concerned about the injury or the explanation given, they will also refer the student to the Wellbeing Service.

DBS check / advanced safeguarding training (formerly Level 3/4) / standard safeguarding training (formerly level 2)

All Designated Safeguarding Officers have received advanced safeguarding training.

All staff involved in delivering courses which target under-18s are required to have received basic safeguarding training. This includes any course which is advertised as 16+, as well as those devised for younger students such as Saturday Art School. The training is required by both the tutor and any assistants, as well as any other University staff who are likely to come into regular contact with under-18s.

In the event that course staff change at very short notice, a risk assessment will be conducted to determine how to proceed. In exceptional circumstances, this may include postponing the start of the course, although it is likely that other mitigating actions can be identified so that the course can run as planned.

At any point, these staff are able to contact a Designated Safeguarding Officer, or email safeguarding@aub.ac.uk, for further advice.

The University has an agreed list of staff who require a DBS check. This includes all staff teaching on PrepHE, to conform with Ofsted's expectations on safer recruitment; and all staff appointed to deliver a course which explicitly recruits under-18s (including all Saturday Art School tutors and all evening, Saturday and summer school tutors). For undergraduate degrees and postgraduate degrees, any under-18s would be incidental: the normal expectation is that those who have completed a Level 3 qualification will be 18. There may be a small number who are younger than this, but this is incidental to the purpose of the course.

For courses where under-18s are incidental, we do not require staff to have undergone formal training, but we do require a dynamic risk assessment. The Course Leader is notified of any students who are under-18 at the start of the course, and they are expected to ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place. For example, it may not be suitable for an under-18 student to have a 1-1 tutorial with a member of staff who has not been trained or DBS-checked, and alternative arrangements may be required.

Students in residential accommodation

Students who join full-time courses (minimum age 17) and who move into University residential accommodation will be moving into accommodation alongside a majority over over-18s. We do not make special arrangements for these students, although under-18s are only placed in accommodation where there is 24-hour security. Parents are required to give consent under these circumstances; and we are clear in our information to parents and legal guardians about how we discharge our legal responsibilities in relation to, for example, child protection.

The Residential Managers in our Halls of Residence are experienced, and have had safeguarding training. All Visitors have to be signed in at Reception, and Security staff make a judgement about the suitability of guests, especially for under-18s.

All Halls have clear arrangements for contractors or other similar visitors, who are required to report to Reception and to wear ID at all times.

There is no restriction on internet access in Halls.

During the undergraduate summer vacation, the Halls may be used as a residential base for students attending a summer school, for which the minimum age is 14. Specific arrangements are put in place for these periods, with close supervision by Residential Supervisors and Residential Assistants, who are usually AUB Student Ambassadors. Anyone filling these roles is required to undertake safeguarding training. We are aware that "the younger the child, the greater the risk", and we plan our cover accordingly. Details of the arrangements for specific courses may vary, and are provided when course details are published.

Visitors to AUB

The University is primarily an adult environment. It is not a public space, and visitors should be aware that they are entering an area where staff or students may be working on a wide range of projects which may not represent suitable viewing for those who are under-18. We specifically invite visitors onto our campus for certain events. This includes Open Days, formal performances (eg by Acting or Dance students) and Summer shows. Relevant University staff are aware of the need to ensure that there is clear public information about any issues which may affect under-18s. This may include refusing ticket sales to certain age groups; and ensuring that any explicit material (artwork or film) is clearly identified such that visitors are aware of it.

We also invite schools and colleges to visit the University. The staff who organise these visits are well aware of safeguarding legislation, and the need to ensure that all under-18s are kept safe.

We acknowledge that it is more difficult for us to guarantee a similar level of consideration to ad hoc visitors. University staff will endeavour, at all times, to ensure that any tour of the campus is adjusted to avoid areas which may be unsuitable, but the nature of the casual and unplanned visit means that it is not always possible to guarantee this.

Monitoring

The University's Prevent Implementation / Safeguarding Team makes an annual report to the University Leadership Team and the Board of Governors on safeguarding matters to provide regular confirmation that the University has continued to meet its legal requirements in respect of safeguarding.