

Student Engagement Policy

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Next review due:	Sep 2023
Responsible Committee:	Senior Management Team
Approved by & date:	Oct 2022
Linked policies:	<p>OBC Mentor System Safeguarding Policy Diversity & Equality Policy Admissions Policy Student Handbook Student Council Guidance Handbook Student-Charter Student Engagement Policy VLE Policy</p>
External reference:	<p>Prevent Guidance BIS UK Quality Code UKSCQA/02 Expectations for Quality, Core Practice 4 (p3); The provider has sufficient and appropriate facilities, learning resources and student support services to deliver a high-quality academic experience.</p> <p>Advice and Guidance Theme 4: Enabling student achievement Guiding Principles 1-6</p>
Audience:	Students and Staff

Introduction

The College attempts to determine the 'student voice' by means of a set of arrangements through which students are enabled to give their opinions and suggestions on College life in an open, honest, secure and constructive manner.

We believe that all students are entitled to contribute actively to shaping the educational experience they and their fellow students receive. Effective delivery of this procedure will give them the opportunity to do so. As well as assisting in student's learning and social development, such student involvement is also of active benefit to the College's performance. The College is committed to placing the student voice at the centre of planning and design of the wider curriculum and all College activities.

Purpose

1 Aims and Objectives

- to facilitate active student engagement in learning and the wider life of the College community
- to nurture the skills and attitudes required to develop responsibility, independence, teamwork and communication skills through relationships between students and staff
- to embed a culture where students have high expectations of themselves, their peers and College staff
- to use our curriculum in order to develop students' leadership capacity and decision-making skills
- to design appropriate curriculum and extracurricular opportunities for students to formally voice their views within and beyond the curriculum
- to engage with students to provide the required education opportunities

2 Necessary components for effective student engagement

- a safe environment where student views are collected in a structured way
- clear parameters to the areas of College life where the student voice is appropriate and useful
- visible outcomes to student engagement exercises
- College staff, particularly lecturers, feel secure about and supportive of the student engagement procedures
- a shared understanding of expectations and standards
- a common language of learning amongst all members of the College community
- students who are empowered to be active learners

Scope

Student engagement embraces all students at the College throughout their journey from enrolment through to graduation and beyond.

Roles and responsibilities

Students

- to engage fully in their learning, developing a fuller understanding of their own progress and the importance of their contribution to the College's development
- to take part constructively and responsibly in self and peer assessment exercises and in the evaluation of College activities (including teaching and lessons)
- to contribute to Student Representative Group meetings within and beyond their tutor group, improving verbal communication and discussion skills and developing their ability to negotiate, compromise and operate as effective team members
- to take responsibility for their environment, academic progress, involvement in wider College life and behaviour
- to read, evaluate and implement the Student Charter
- to participate in and support the work of the Student Council

Lecturers

- to be comfortable about receiving constructive criticism and to act upon it proactively
- to regularly seek student feedback regarding teaching and learning activities through formal (e.g. questionnaires/surveys) and informal (e.g. conversations) to encourage and make use of student views
- to use a wide range of assessment for learning techniques, in particular self and peer assessment, to encourage debate about targets, progress and standards
- to embed learning to learn strategies through lesson planning and delivery
- to offer students the opportunity to plan, deliver and resource a section of occasional lessons (e.g. starter or plenary session)

Heads of Programme

- to ensure assessment for learning, learning to learn and opportunities to increase independent learning skills are embedded in schemes of work and resources

- to use student feedback as a key strategy to monitor and evaluate the quality of teaching and learning
- to promote opportunities for students to take ownership of their learning

The Academic Board

- to provide every student with the opportunity to contribute to student engagement activities
- to devise clear structures and systems to promote student engagement
- to properly resource student engagement activities
- to use regular student feedback data to inform planning, teaching and learning strategies and wider College life
- to promote the work of the Student Council through facilitating student contributions

Student Support staff

- to understand the importance of student engagement in the life of the College
- to effectively carry out student engagement surveys which fall within their remit
- to act upon the outcomes of student engagement surveys which impact upon their department / area

Members of the Board of Governance

- to support projects and development of the student engagement agenda
- to request a student engagement update as part of the Quality Review each academic year.

4 The Student Council

The Student Council consists of student representatives and has the following duties:

- to discuss student-related issues
- to promote communication between students through meetings, conferences, newsletters and the internet
- to advise the Academic Board in matters concerning the support and development of students.

The Student Council meets four times per academic year and reports its discussions and decisions to the Academic Board.