



# **Provision for students with particular religious, dietary, language or cultural needs policy**

Revised: June 2021

Review date: June 2022

This policy should be read in conjunction with the OxSFC COVID-19 policy that overrides the guidelines/procedures in this policy, where appropriate. The guiding principle will always be to maintain the health and safety of all stakeholders.

## **Provision for students with particular religious, dietary, language or cultural needs policy**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the College's goals and objectives in regard to equality, diversity and inclusion are applied to the provision it makes for religious observance, cultural diversity, dietary and language support needs of its students.

### **Aims**

The aims of this policy are to:

- Contribute good practice in regard to religious, dietary, cultural and language diversity
- Promote harmony and understanding amongst students of different cultural and religious backgrounds
- Enable the College to provide practical and sensitive support to students in regard to religious observance, cultural norms, dietary requirements and language assistance where English is not a student's first language.

### **Religion**

The College embraces and celebrates all religions and denominations and makes practical provision for students to observe their religion during the course of their stay. Students are allowed to engage in voluntary individual prayer as long as this does not compromise the College's educational aims and their own and other students' learning and development. Quiet rooms for students to pray are available in each building where space allows. Where space is not on-site students will be permitted reasonable time to facilitate this activity as long as this does not compromise their curriculum obligations.

### **Food in Boarding Houses**

The College offers both meat and vegetarian options to all students.

The College will also ensure that food is correctly identified to enable students and staff to identify food that is unacceptable to them for religious or cultural reasons.

### **Students with specific dietary needs**

The College will cater for any student with specific dietary needs, for example those students with allergies or intolerances to specific foods. Once a specific need has been identified, the College will arrange for the individual concerned (or an approved representative) to meet the Head of House to discuss their dietary needs and make appropriate arrangements.

### **Cultural Diversity**

The College is proud of the wide cultural diversity of its students and takes steps to ensure that cultural differences are respected. It recognises the norms and customs associated with particular cultures and will ensure that students can observe and retain them wherever practicable during their time at the College. The College, on occasion, will host various cultural events to raise awareness and understanding of cultural diversity.

The catering staff will also work with students and provide specific provision, if required, during, for example Ramadan, or other religious festival.

### **Language Support**

The College expects English to be spoken in communal areas, the classroom, and the boarding facility. However, the College offers mother tongue language consultation during term time for a variety of different languages depending on numbers involved and will also, where possible, provide translators for visiting parents. Where necessary the College provides additional English support as part of the regular curriculum.