

Information for students aged under 18 and their parents / guardians

Swansea College has a duty of care towards all its students and staff. In the case of students enrolling before their 18th birthday, this duty is enhanced as such students are regarded as children under UK law. In order that families can be assured of the College's commitment to the safety and well-being of younger students, this document has been produced as a guide to the level of care provided by the college.

The College is not *in loco parentis* i.e. it is not in the same position as a parent and does not accept that level of responsibility for its students. For this reason, if a student's parents are not resident in the UK, it will be necessary for them to appoint a guardian in the UK and provide contact details for this person and their informed consent to acting in this capacity.

Being a guardian involves carrying out the tasks and responsibilities of the parent as delegated by the child's parents. As such it is a private arrangement between the parent and the guardian. The College is not able to assist parents in finding a suitable guardian but for those families who do not have friends or relatives in the UK; a list of accredited agencies can be obtained from:

The Wheelhouse,
Bond's Mill Estate
Bristol Road
Stonehouse
Gloucestershire
GL10 3RF

Tel: +44 (0) 1453 821293

Email: info@aegisuk.net

As a general rule, those under the age of 18 are unable to enter into contracts. Where these are required, e.g. for accommodation, the College requires parents to act as guarantors i.e. to agree to pay any sums agreed under a contract if the student fails to do so.

Although those under 18 are regarded as children under the law, they still have the right under the Data Protection Act for information about them not to be disclosed without their consent unless the College believes them to be a risk to themselves or others. This means that the College is not able to give information to parents regarding the student's progress, results etc unless the student has given their specific consent.

However if the student fails to pay any sums agreed under contract it will be necessary to disclose this information to their parents and possibly also a debt collection agency. For this reason the student is asked to sign the declaration at the bottom of the page. Failure to pay debts due to the College could also result in the student's enrolment at the College being suspended.