



STATEMENT OF RESIDENTIAL PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

This Statement of Residential Principles and Practice sets out the aims, principles, organisation and key support arrangements for residential provision at Reaseheath College.

It is intended to support prospective and current residential students, parents and carers, staff and relevant professionals to understand how the College promotes the welfare, safety, personal development and wellbeing of residential students under the National Minimum Standards for Further Education residential accommodation. The statement should be read alongside the Residential Handbook, Residential Agreement and relevant College policies.

The statement is available on the College website, can be provided in accessible formats on request and is reviewed at least annually by the Head of Student Services.

Our Residential Aim

Reaseheath College offers a residential provision that provides a safe, secure, inclusive and supportive environment which promotes student welfare, personal development, academic achievement and independence.

The residential experience is designed to help students develop confidence, resilience, social skills, life skills and positive relationships whilst studying at college.

Residential Accommodation

Residential accommodation is available to students who are unable to travel daily to college due to distance from home or where there are other circumstances that make residential accommodation appropriate.

The college offers approximately 596 residential places in a range of accommodation types and price bands, of which 244 are currently allocated to under 18-year-old students, including 192 full-time places and 52 under 18 block-release places. Accommodation is allocated according to published criteria, individual circumstances, travel distance, specific needs, and availability.

Students under the age of 18 are accommodated in same-gender halls of residence separately from adult students. Where a student turns 18 during the academic year, they will be moved into over-18 accommodation as soon as practicable where this is appropriate and available. Until this point, they must continue to abide by the rules and conditions of the halls that apply to under-18 residential students. This includes visitors, no alcohol in the halls and behaviour expectations. However, over 18 students may stay out beyond curfew and may drink alcohol (within reason) but not in the halls of residence.

All under 18 students are accommodated on the main college campus where arrangements are in place to ensure high standards of welfare, safeguarding and supervision measures to promote their safety and wellbeing. Students who are under the age of 18 years of age are expected to follow specific rules which are designed to keep them safe.

Allocations

Students may apply for accommodation whilst waiting for an offer on their course or once the student has been offered a place on their course. Residential accommodation can be applied for from May to start college in the following September term.

Applications for residential accommodation are reviewed by the Student Services team during July and August who allocate rooms on the basis of a range of factors which include potential travel times and specific individual needs. The final allocation of specific rooms is based on a number of factors and in those cases where it is not possible to offer a place in September, the student goes onto a waiting list.

Once in accommodation, students normally remain in their allocated room. Room moves are considered where appropriate, taking account of welfare, safeguarding, compatibility, availability and the effective management of the residential community.

The majority of students' needs can be met by the college; however, facilities are not always available to effectively support individuals with significant medical or other needs and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. These are reviewed by a panel that includes safeguarding, learning support and residential teams.

Requests for room moves will be considered where appropriate and are subject to approval by the Head of Student Services or Deputy Head of Student Services.

Student Welfare, Support and Safeguarding

The welfare, safety and wellbeing of residential students are key priorities. The care and safeguarding of students are maintained through a team of Student Support Officers with cover provided by staff 24 hours 7 days a week basis.

All residential students receive induction information at the start of their residential placement. This includes guidance on residential rules, contact details for support, safeguarding and wellbeing arrangements, fire safety, emergency procedures, reporting concerns, behaviour expectations and how to access independent support.

Residential students have access to support from:

- Residential Student Support Officers (SSOs)
- Residential Support Officers (RSOs)
- Head of Student Services
- Deputy Head of Student Services
- Student Services Team
- The Safeguarding and Wellbeing Team
- Progress Coaches
- Academic Tutors
- Additional Learning Support- the LSC Team
- Campus Supervisors

- Duty Manager
- Access to independent support via the Student Assistance Programme
- College Chaplain

Residential staff are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week during term time to provide support, guidance and assistance. Support arrangements include:

- day, evening and night staffing arrangements appropriate to the needs and occupancy of the residential provision;
- duty management and escalation arrangements;
- emergency response arrangements, including access to first aid and safeguarding support;
- arrangements during weekends, holidays or reduced occupancy periods where relevant.

The college is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults. All residential staff receive appropriate safeguarding training and are subject to safer recruitment checks and annual Enhanced DBS checks.

The Wellbeing team support students who have non-academic issues whilst at the college. All halls of residence are protected by access control, CCTV and vetted Student Support Officers. Although excellent monitoring arrangements are in place at the college it has to be recognised that a degree of maturity is required by the student to make a success of residential living.

Students are monitored while on the college campus and arrangements are in place to allow individuals to leave the campus in the evening in a controlled and safe way. Under-18 residential students are expected to follow specific residential rules, which are issued once a residential place has been offered. Parents and carers are asked to read the College Residential Agreement, confirm their understanding of the rules and support the college in ensuring that under-18 students comply with them.

Arrangements for off-site visits, evening leave and overnight absence are managed through residential procedures and require appropriate authorisation from parents or carers. Under-18 students are subject to checks in accordance with the Residential Handbook and Missing Student Procedure. Where a student is unaccounted for, staff follow escalation procedures, which may include contacting parents or carers, senior staff and, where necessary, the police or other relevant agencies.

All residential staff are recruited, trained and supervised in line with safer recruitment, safeguarding and college behaviour expectations. Staff are expected to understand their responsibilities, maintain appropriate professional boundaries, record and escalate concerns, and contribute to a safe and positive residential culture.

Detailed safeguarding arrangements can be found in the College Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Health and Wellbeing

The college is committed to supporting the physical, emotional and mental wellbeing of all residential students.

Students have access to:

- Student Support Officers (SSO)

- First aid support
- Wellbeing services
- Mental health support
- Pastoral Support and guidance
- Emergency assistance when required
- Chaplain
- Access to independent support via the Student Assistance Programme.

Where necessary, individual healthcare plans and risk assessments are developed to support students safely within the residential environment.

Further information is available within the Health and Wellbeing Policy and Residential Handbook.

Safety, Fire Precautions and Security

The college maintains arrangements to promote the physical safety and security of residential students, including access control, CCTV where appropriate, staff presence, emergency response procedures and regular monitoring of residential areas.

Fire safety arrangements include fire detection and alarm systems, evacuation procedures, fire drills, student induction, staff response arrangements and personal emergency evacuation planning where required. Students are expected to comply with fire safety instructions and report any safety concerns promptly.

Students are expected to take reasonable care of their personal possessions, keep rooms secure and report loss, theft, damage or maintenance concerns promptly. Information on room security, personal belongings, damage and insurance expectations is provided through the Residential Handbook and Residential Agreement.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The college values diversity and is committed to creating an inclusive residential community where all students are treated with dignity, fairness and respect.

Reasonable adjustments will be considered to support students with disabilities, learning difficulties, medical needs and other protected characteristics wherever practicable within the residential setting.

The college welcomes students from a wide range of backgrounds, cultures, faiths and identities. Multi-faith support and a multi-faith prayer room are available, and catering outlets can support dietary requirements linked to religion, culture, allergies, medical needs or personal circumstances where practicable.

Further information can be found within the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy.

Students with Additional Needs

The college welcomes applications from students with additional learning, health or support needs.

Prior to admission, the college will work with students, parents/carers and relevant professionals to assess whether appropriate support and reasonable adjustments can be provided within the residential environment.

Where specialist support requirements exceed the resources available within the residential provision, the college will discuss alternative arrangements with applicants and their families.

Behaviour and Community Expectations

Residential students are expected to contribute positively to the residential community by:

- Treating others with respect
- Following residential expectations and college rules
- Maintaining a safe environment
- Respecting college property and the property of others
- Demonstrating responsible behaviour online and offline
- Complying with the College PRIDE Values

The college promotes positive behaviour and actively challenges bullying, harassment, discrimination and inappropriate conduct.

Further information is available in the Student Conduct Policy, Residential Agreement and Learner Harassment and Bullying Policy.

Online Safety

The college recognises the importance of helping students stay safe online.

Residential students are expected to use digital technologies responsibly and in accordance with college policies.

Guidance regarding online safety, social media use and acceptable use of technology can be found in the Online Safety Policy and Acceptable Use Procedures.

Student Voice and Participation

The college values the views of residential students and encourages them to contribute to the development of residential provision.

Students can share their views through:

- Student pulse surveys
- Residential and Halls meetings
- Student representative groups
- Student forums
- Student Life Team and SU Team
- Feedback and consultation activities
- IRDP's
- Progress Review meetings.

Student feedback is regularly reviewed and used to improve residential services and facilities.

Independent Person for Residential Students

The College recognises that some residential students may not have regular contact with a parent, carer, guardian or other appropriate adult outside the College with whom they can discuss personal concerns or seek advice.

To ensure all residential students have access to independent support, the College provides access to the **Wisdom Health Assured Student Assistance Programme**. This service operates independently of the College and provides confidential wellbeing, emotional support, and practical guidance from qualified advisers.

Students may contact this person confidentially if they wish to discuss concerns, seek advice or raise issues independently of residential staff. The service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and may be accessed directly by students without the involvement of college staff. Advisers are independent of the College and are not involved in the leadership, management or governance of the College.

Residential students will be informed during induction, through residential handbooks, from the Student Services team and through ongoing welfare information of:

- the purpose of the service;
- how to access the service;
- the contact details and access routes available;
- the circumstances in which confidentiality may need to be breached to protect a student or another person from significant harm.

In addition to the Wisdom Health Assured Student Assistance Programme, students are provided with details of external support organisations and helplines, including Childline and other appropriate safeguarding and wellbeing services. These services are available to students who wish to seek advice, support or advocacy from an organisation entirely independent of the College.

Parents and Carers

The college recognises the importance of working in partnership with parents and carers. Parents and carers are encouraged to maintain contact with the college regarding student welfare, wellbeing and progress.

The college will communicate with parents and carers in accordance with safeguarding responsibilities, student age, consent arrangements and relevant legislation.

Emergency contact arrangements are maintained for all residential students.

Faith, Culture and Dietary Requirements

The college is committed to supporting the cultural, religious and dietary needs of residential students.

Support includes:

- Access to multi-faith facilities
- Consideration of religious observance
- Catering arrangements for dietary requirements
- Access to appropriate support where required

Students are encouraged to discuss individual requirements with the Student Services Team.

Students and parents or carers are encouraged to disclose dietary, allergy, medical, cultural, religious or language-related needs during application and induction so that appropriate support can be

considered. Where required, the college will liaise with catering, Student Services, parents or carers and relevant professionals, and may develop individual arrangements or risk assessments.

Activities and Personal Development

Each under-18 full-time residential student has a dedicated member of the Student Services Team who completes Individual Residential Development Plans at least three times a year. These plans support students to reflect on their residential experience, personal development, wellbeing, independence and any support needs.

The college will continue to develop equivalent arrangements for under-18 residential apprentices. Regular reviews will be conducted by the apprentices Skills Coach twice a year.

The residential experience provides opportunities for students to participate in a wide range of social, recreational, sporting and enrichment activities.

These opportunities support personal development, independence, confidence building, wellbeing and the development of positive relationships.

Students are actively encouraged to participate in activities and make the most of their residential experience.

Students will have access to the Student Life Team, SU Team and their Progress Coach or Skills Coach throughout their time at college.

Complaints and Concerns

The college aims to resolve concerns quickly, fairly and transparently.

Residential students may raise concerns with any member of staff and are encouraged to seek support whenever needed.

Formal complaints may be made in accordance with the College Complaints Procedure. Students will not be disadvantaged as a result of making a complaint in good faith. Where a concern relates to safeguarding, wellbeing or immediate safety, staff will take appropriate action in line with safeguarding and emergency procedures rather than waiting for the formal complaints process.

Further Information

Residential provision operates in accordance with the following policies and procedures:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Student Conduct Policy
- Learner Harassment and Bullying Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Health and Wellbeing Policy
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- Residential Agreement
- Missing Student Procedure
- Residential Handbook
- Fire Safety and Health and Safety arrangements

- Safer Recruitment and Staff Code of Conduct arrangements
- First Aid, medication and individual healthcare plan arrangements

This statement is owned by the Head of Student Services and reviewed annually, or sooner where required by changes in legislation, statutory guidance, National Minimum Standards or College practice.

Oversight is provided through the College's Executive Leadership Team, Residential Oversight Committee, Safeguarding Committee and governance arrangements. The statement is made available to students, parents/carers, staff and relevant professionals on the college website or upon request and can be provided in accessible formats on request.