

ST PETER'S COLLEGE, OXFORD

Romantic/sexual relationships with students

The following guidelines assume that both parties are over eighteen years of age. Relationships involving students under the age of eighteen could constitute an offence under those provisions of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 relating to sexual relations between children under eighteen and persons in positions of trust.

St Peter's College regards romantic/sexual relationships between tutors and students for whom they have or are likely to have some specific academic responsibility as an important professional issue, as such relationships raise questions of conflict of interest, trust, and equal treatment in selection, teaching, and assessment. Similar questions would be raised by romantic/sexual relationships of College Officers and welfare advisers with students. Tutors and the holders of these posts should accept the constraints and obligations inherent in their roles. Certain members of the College's senior administrative staff have responsibilities towards students that could raise similar questions.

Such a relationship should therefore be declared in confidence to an appropriate College Officer (such as the Master, Senior Tutor, Bursar or Tutor for Welfare) who will facilitate the reorganisation of the person's duties so that he or she no longer has responsibilities that are likely to raise these issues. In the case of a tutor declaring such a relationship, the Senior Tutor would facilitate the reorganisation of the tutor's duties so that he or she no longer has academic contact with the student concerned.

Students who are, or have been, involved in a romantic/sexual relationship with a member of the University or the College in which they do not consider their involvement to be or have been consensual are entitled to complain under the University's Policy on Harassment, which is available at <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/har/index.shtml>.

The above guidelines were adopted by the Governing Body of St Peter's College on 17 May 2006.