

Confidentiality in Student Health and Welfare

St Anne's College respects the privacy and confidentiality of its members in matters relating to the health and welfare of individuals. The Human Rights Act 1998 provides that everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, with certain qualifications in the interests of inter alia, prevention of disorder or crime, the protection of health and morals, and the rights and freedoms of others.

Nevertheless, in certain circumstances, the College may have to take action on information provided in confidence: where, for example, there may be potential harm to an individual or to others, or where there is a need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism as defined under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, and the College considered that it had a duty to minimise risk. Wherever relevant, the consent of individuals for the disclosure of information will be sought but, in exceptional circumstances, it may be necessary in any case to disclose the information to others on a limited basis.

In recognising its legal obligations toward Her Majesty's Governments' policy on PREVENT, St Anne's College, noting where the risk of individuals being drawn into terrorism is judged to be low, has adopted policies that are proportionate and risk-based and which remain subject to, and do not undermine, existing rights including under the Education (No 2) Act 1986, the Human Rights Act 1998, the Equality Act 2010 and the Data Protection Act of 1998.

Doctors and counsellors observe separate but similar professional confidentiality guidelines. In respect of students aged over 18, they are legally adult and the College no longer has a role in loco parentis. Since almost all students are aged above 18, families will not normally be contacted without consent. Nevertheless, it is to be expected that the student or College would want to inform parents of serious illness or accident.

Students should be reassured that it may be helpful to discuss personal matters with others without fearing disclosure and that such discussions will not be seen as resulting in adverse academic, employment or other consequence.

Junior members have the same general obligation as staff to respect the privacy of others in their everyday behaviour and also in what they say to the press and in email. Advice on confidentiality may be sought from the College Doctor, Senior Tutor or the Principal if required.