

HE students: Guidance for Under-18 Students and Parents/Carers

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Lead contact:	Head of Student Support / Head of Quality & Compliance
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Further information:	

Guidance for Under-18 Students and Their Parents/Carers

Introduction

While most university students are 18 or over, a small number join as minors. This guidance outlines key information for under-18 students and their parents/carers to ensure a safe, supported and successful transition to life at Northern School of Contemporary Dance (NSCD).

Parental / Carer Consent

NSCD is not able to take on the usual rights, responsibilities and authority that parents have in relation to a child, and it will not be able to act *in loco parentis* in relation to students who are under the age of 18 years.

We therefore must receive consent from the student's parents or legal guardians, to acknowledge their acceptance of our protocols. Completing the Parental/Carer Consent Form below is a condition of admission to NSCD for all students who will be under 18 years of age at the time of registration.

[Parental/Carer Consent Form](#)

1. Legal Status and Parental Responsibility

- Students under 18 are legally considered children.
- The university is not *in loco parentis* and cannot assume parental responsibility.
- Parents/carers retain legal responsibility until the student turns 18.

2. Safeguarding and Support

- The Head of Student Support will be the designated point of contact for queries relating to students under the age of 18.
- All under-18s are added to a safeguarding list shared (confidentially) with relevant staff.
- If any concerns arise about a student's wellbeing, NSCD will follow its Safeguarding Policy and may contact parents/carers if necessary.

3. Attendance Procedure

- We ask all students to report when they are going to be absent from NSCD.
- We monitor the attendance of all our learners under the age of 18.
- If a student under the age of 18 is absent and has not reported to NSCD, we will always try to contact the student first.
- If we are unable to contact the student, we will contact their legal guardian.

4. Accommodation

- NSCD does not own its own accommodation, but we provide support to secure Unipol approved accommodation with private landlords or city centre halls of residence.
- Some university halls of residence or landlords may have age restrictions.

- Under-18s are not permitted to act as guarantors or sign tenancy agreements independently. A parent/guardian will be required to co-sign.
- For further information please see: <https://www.nscd.ac.uk/study/student-life/accommodation/>

5. Medical and Emergency Care

- Under-18s are encouraged to register with a local GP upon arrival (guidance on how to do this is available to students on the VLE Moodle).
- In a medical emergency, NSCD will act in the student's best interest and may contact parents/carers.
- NSCD cannot authorise medical treatment on behalf of a student – this remains the responsibility of the parent/carer.
- Should a student under the age of 18 require hospital treatment whilst onsite at NSCD the school will follow the procedure detailed below:
 - First aid will be administered if necessary.
 - Emergency services will be called if the situation is critical or life-threatening.
 - A member of staff will accompany the student to the hospital via taxi (cost covered by NSCD), unless transported by ambulance.
 - The student's listed emergency contact will be informed as soon as possible and kept updated.
 - The staff member will remain with the student until they are registered and safely handed over to hospital care.
 - Where possible, the emergency contact will be encouraged to attend the hospital to provide ongoing support and consent for treatment.
 - Post discharge, NSCD will ensure the student has a safe means of returning home or to their accommodation.
 - The student will be provided with the NSCD contact number for follow-up support.
 - To follow up, the accompanying staff member will contact the parent/carer after the hospital visit to provide an update on the student's condition and any next steps.
 - Where appropriate, NSCD may follow up with the student in the days after the incident to check on their wellbeing and offer further support.
 - A written record of the incident will be logged and stored securely in line with NSCD's safeguarding procedures.

6. Alcohol, Nightlife and the Law

- Students under 18 are not legally permitted to buy or consume alcohol, attend licensed premises (such as nightclubs), or purchase age-restricted items.
- NSCD events involving alcohol will be clearly marked. Under-18s will not be admitted to events that would breach licensing laws.

7. Academic Expectations and Independence

- Under-18 students are expected to meet the same academic standards and behave with the same level of personal responsibility as their peers.
- NSCD will not routinely share academic or attendance data with parents/carers unless explicit consent is given.

8. Consent and Privacy

- Students are entitled to the same rights to data privacy as any other student. NSCD will not share personal information with parents/carers without the student's consent unless there is a safeguarding concern.

9. NSCD Expectations for Under-18 Students

- Comply with the NSCD Learning Culture & Codes of Practice and Safeguarding Policy (see links below).
- Engage with their tutors and student support teams.
- Inform the Head of Student Support of any issues affecting their welfare or academic progress.
- Understand that joining NSCD means acting with increasing independence, even as a minor.

10. Parent/Carer Role

- Support the student's independence and decision-making.
- Maintain regular communication but allow the student to take increasing responsibility.
- Provide consent for emergency medical treatment as detailed in point 5.

11. Turning 18

- When the student turns 18, NSCD systems will be updated automatically.
- All safeguards specific to minors will cease, and the student will be treated fully as an adult under NSCD policy.

12. Contacts and Further Support

- Head of Student Support: Ali.Coleman@nscd.ac.uk
- Safeguarding: safeguarding@nscd.ac.uk
- Student Services: studentservices@nscd.ac.uk
- [Safeguarding Policy](#)
- [NSCD Learning Culture & Codes of Practice](#)