

St Antony's College guidelines on protests, demonstrations or similar gatherings

Protests, demonstrations and similar gatherings in College

Open, free, and robust discussion is vital to our academic community. However, this culture thrives only when all participants engage critically but courteously with one another. Harassment or victimisation in any form is not tolerated by the College. We expect all members of the College community, along with visitors and contractors, to treat each other with respect, courtesy, and consideration.

The University is dedicated to fostering an inclusive culture that values diversity and promotes equality. We have a responsibility to ensure a safe, welcoming, and effective environment for all students, staff, and visitors.

In this context, the College recognises that students may wish to stage or take part in protests on College grounds, and we wish to support all members of our community to respectfully share, debate and challenge views and positions on a wide range of issues. This falls within the College's procedures for meetings and events. To book events please email St Antony's Accommodation and Conferences accom-conf@sant.ox.ac.uk We are committed to protecting freedom of speech and freedom of assembly within the law, and our priority is to ensure that any protests, demonstrations or other gatherings are carried out in a safe way, respectful of the diversity of our community in line with our [Code of Conduct](#).

Context

St Antony's College is first and foremost an academic environment and home for the c. 250 students who live on site. Teaching and learning as well as exams and pre-booked events must take priority and must not be disrupted by anyone who wishes to protest.

The plan of a protest, demonstration or similar gathering on College property must be communicated in advance to the College just as is the case for any other event. This is desirable both for safety of protesters and welfare of other members of the College community. Please be assured that we will seek to support you in your freedom to protest peacefully, in the context of ensuring we create a safe and respectful environment for you and for the wider College community. Collegiate university members involved in protests are required to identify themselves to College and/or University officials upon request. Failure to comply constitutes a breach of Statute XI, which all students with a study contract at Oxford are obliged to follow.

For any questions or informal and confidential discussions please email: dean@sant.ox.ac.uk

For demonstrations and protests on University (not College) grounds, please read the [University of Oxford Guidance on Demonstrations or Protests](#) and [Inclusive student life | University of Oxford](#).

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Guidelines for protests in College

The guidelines below are designed to make it clear what is acceptable and unacceptable conduct when protesting peacefully and lawfully in College. The list is not exhaustive and will help us all to ensure freedom of speech and freedom of protest in line with the College's Code of Conduct and relevant policies.

DO	DON'T
Remember that we all have a right to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly and that the right to exchange information, debate ideas and express opinions is a core aspect of our individual freedom and our collective good.	Deny others' freedom to assemble, express opinions or beliefs different to your own.
Follow the College's booking processes for events in College.	Fail to follow the booking process, or seek to subvert booking systems to prevent attendees from obtaining a place at any event.
Consider the needs and safety of others in the community, and engage respectfully with students, staff and College members, remembering at all times to comply with the College's Code of Conduct.	Intimidate, harass or disrespect others, either in person or on social media/online.
Follow instructions given by College staff, identify yourself when asked to do so and in rare cases by any other officials e.g. paramedics, security etc who may be required to attend.	<p>Disrupt any College events e.g. preventing speakers from talking or from being heard (e.g. by making noise to drown out a speaker), or taking action aimed at preventing an event commencing or continuing.</p> <p>Cause any damage to College property (including flyposting, using paint, stickering or affixing other items to College property), or environment (including smoke canisters).</p> <p>Block access ways, buildings and staircases.</p>
Clearly communicate information about the protest, including by handing out leaflets, or using signs avoiding disrespectful, harassing or intimidating language targeted at individuals.	Use abusive, threatening language via communications, placards, banners, posters, chants or other means.

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College Policies

All relevant College policies can be found here:

[Code of Conduct](#)

[Code of Student Discipline](#)

[Policy & Procedure on Harassment](#)

[Complaints Policy & Procedure](#)

[Equality & Diversity inclusion statement](#)

[Equality Policy](#)

[Free Speech Statement](#)

What if I choose not to follow the protest guidelines?

Students who choose not to follow the guidelines in this document and the College's Code of Conduct which supports lawful, safe, peaceful protest, will be referred to the College Dean under the Student Code of Conduct. Where St Antony's students invite third-party groups or individuals to join a protest on College premises, those College students will be responsible for ensuring compliance by external groups for individuals. Any allegations of a criminal offence committed by any College member may be reported to the police.