



# Higher Education Student Engagement Policy

*Excellence, Passion, Integrity, Valuing Others,  
Supportiveness, Teamwork*



With excellence in  
Environmental and Land Based Training

Recognising the best organisations  
for training and development solutions

### **Our Mission**

To inspire learners to recognise and achieve their full potential

### **Our Values**

Excellence, Passion, Team Work, Integrity, Innovation,  
Sustainability, Valuing Others and Supportiveness

### **Sparsholt College Hampshire, incorporating Andover College**

The ***Higher Education Student Engagement Policy*** was approved by the Board of Governors in March 2017 and is effective from 30 March 2017.

Equality Impact Assessment	Conducted: October 2013
Originator: Head of Faculty – Higher Education	Located:
	College intranet
	College website
Date of next scheduled review:	<i>February 2020</i>

# Higher Education Student Engagement Policy

*Excellence, Passion, Integrity, Valuing Others, Supportiveness, Teamwork*

## Contents

1. Purpose of the HE Student Engagement Policy
2. Definitions of the Policy
3. The Policy
4. Implementation
5. Links with the QAA UK Quality Code for Higher Education Learners
6. Associated Documents
7. Monitoring Review and Evaluation

### 1. Purpose

- 1.1 Sparsholt College is an Associate College of the University of Portsmouth and as a consequence is responsible for Student Engagement.
- 1.2 The purpose of this policy is to define our intentions to involve and empower students in the process of shaping their learning experience, in their journey towards becoming autonomous, independent learners.
- 1.3 The College is committed to working with all students, either as individuals and/or as groups, to help them develop the skills and confidence to be actively involved in the organisation of their own learning and student experience, regardless of their mode of study, age, disability, gender, race, religion, sexuality or transgender status.

### 2. Definitions

- 2.1. *'Student Engagement is the involvement and empowerment of students in the process of shaping the student learning experience, to inform the College's quality systems with the purpose of improving the student educational experience for both current and future cohorts.'* The QAA UK Quality Code Chapter B5, Student Engagement.
- 2.2 The Higher Education Strategy defines its commitment to the development of independent learners and student engagement as follows:

**The College will promote the concept of the independent learner, who adopts a shared responsibility for learning and the enhancement of learning to enrich their overall experience.**

- We will engender a sense of community and a shared commitment to learning, development and responsibility with our students so that they consider themselves co-partners and active participants in their learning.
- We will actively engage students to participate in our quality assurance and enhancement procedures so that their views more fully inform course development and delivery.

### **3. The Policy**

- 3.1 All Higher Education students will be actively encouraged and supported to be involved in student engagement activities to improve quality processes in a manner and at a level that is appropriate to them.
- 3.2 The College will foster an appropriate range of Student Engagement activities to establish a culture and environment where students are encouraged to take up the opportunities on offer.
- 3.3 Quality systems and processes will facilitate the inclusion of individual and collective feedback from students
- 3.4 Aspects of the educational journey into which students will be invited to offer insight into include:
  - Application and Admission
  - Induction and progression Programme and curriculum design, delivery and organisation
  - Teaching and learning
  - Assessment
  - Learning resources
  - Student support and guidance.
  - Other areas identified by the student body
- 3.5 Support and information for students will be provided to ensure their understanding of student engagement and their individual and collective responsibilities in the process.
- 3.6 Training and monitoring will be provided for staff involved in the promotion and completion of student engagement activities.
- 3.7 The College will provide student engagement opportunities which will ensure equality of access for the entire student cohort, both collectively and as individuals, activities will include:
  - Student representation on the College's Governing Body
  - Higher Education Student Council
  - Course representatives
  - Cross College Learner Voice

- Curriculum area Learner Voice activities
- Student representation on the curriculum Board of Studies
- Higher Education online student surveys including NSS
- Group tutorials

#### **4. Implementation**

- 4.1 It is the responsibility of all staff and managers involved in the delivery of teaching, learning assessment and support to Higher Education students to foster and promote student engagement opportunities across the College. The Head of Faculty – Higher Education will lead the process, supported by Learning Managers who are responsible for ensuring that all students are aware of and able to access student engagement opportunities.
- 4.2 Senior Practitioner with responsibility for student engagement has a major role in working with the student body.
- 4.3 The Student Services Co-ordinator will be responsible for organising Learner Voice and Council activities, and Course rep training activities in conjunction with University of Winchester staff.
- 4.4 Higher Education students will be informed and empowered to become involved in student engagement activities as a result of effective communication through the Head of Faculty – Higher Education to the staff involved in teaching, assessing and supporting Higher Education students. The communication strands include Moodle, the College’s Virtual Learning Environment, the Higher Education student newsletter, Group and individual tutorials, HE Student Handbook, and course representatives.
- 4.5 Appropriate training and briefing activities will be provided relevant to the level of student engagement for all students. These will range from induction briefings, to course representative and HE Student Council training.
- 4.6 Higher Education teaching staff will be responsible for engaging with training and briefing activities to ensure effective dissemination and promotion of student engagement activities to students.

#### **5. Staff and groups with specific responsibility:**

- Quality & Standards Committee of the Governing Body
- Higher Education Strategic Group
- Head of Faculty - Higher Education
- Higher Education Senior Practitioner
- Learning Managers
- Higher Education teaching staff
- Student Services co-ordinator
- Residential Services team
- Higher Education Student Council

## **6. Associated Documents**

- QAA UK Quality Code Chapter B5 Student Engagement
- University of Portsmouth Associate College agreement
- Sparsholt College Higher Education Academic Strategy
- Feedback Policy
- Single Equality Scheme
- Learner Involvement Strategy FE
- HE Student Charter
- Student Code of Conduct

## **7. Monitoring, Review and Evaluation**

- 7.1 The Higher Education Strategy Group will monitor the effectiveness of the Student Engagement Policy to ensure that all Higher Education students are supported and informed to provide feedback that is instrumental in Quality processes.
- 7.2 The Higher Education Board of Studies, which includes student involvement, will review and monitor the effectiveness of Student Engagement opportunities.