Visitors at St Catharine’s College

March 2021

This policy is intended to cover day-to-day access to the College. It is not intended to cover admissions, outreach and open days, which will be planned and considered separately. It reflects the latest restrictions and will be updated as these are eased as part of the Government’s roadmap out of lockdown effective from March onwards. Advance notice of further easing of lockdown measures may be limited so updates to this policy may require a few days for the College to process and the cooperation of our community in the meantime.

Who is permitted to visit College properties?
The following groups may visit College properties:
• St Catharine’s students resident in Cambridge
• St Catharine’s Fellows
• St Catharine’s Junior Research Fellows
• St Catharine’s staff
• Students from other Cambridge Colleges:
  o To join an outdoor gathering (including in private gardens) of either six people or two households
  o To access an existing support bubble (where permission has been given by the Senior Tutors of the respective colleges)
• Contractors (subject to specific risk assessments)
• Ordinands (2) and visiting preachers under the supervision of the Chaplain
• No more than two companions for drop-offs and pick-ups for resident students (in line with the Easter travel window)
• Visiting sports teams (subject to specific risk assessments and at the invitation of a member of the College)

Whilst we are no longer operating under a ‘stay at home’ order, the advice is that people should continue to work from home where they can. As such, while the above groups are permitted to visit College properties, they should consider whether this is necessary.

Who is not permitted to visit College properties?
There are some notable groups who are not permitted to visit, after careful consideration by the College:
• College Members (including alumni, Honorary Fellows, Emeritus Fellows, Fellow Commoners, former Fellows, and members by special election) who do not fall into any of the permitted categories;
• Visiting Scholars (unless needing access to supervise);
• Postdoctoral Associates (unless needing access to supervise);
• Non-members of the College who have been granted dining rights;
• Non-members of College who frequently attend chapel services;
• The Girls’ Choir and parents of the Girls’ Choir;
• Members of the Cambridge Chapels Youth Choir (which usually sings one service a term during the school half term); and
• Family members / friends except pick-up / drop-offs: by exception, family members may be allowed as day visitors, subject to the approval of the Senior Tutor and the latest restrictions.
Restrictions on visits to households during the national lockdown
The College has always intended to permit visitors to enter student households so long as Government guidelines and regulations are followed.

However, it remains against the law for anyone in England to meet indoors socially with family or friends unless they are part of your household or support bubble – and this includes student households.

A support bubble is defined by the Government as a support network that links two households based on specific eligibility criteria. Students and Fellows living in College accommodation should ensure a single support bubble is only ever set up with the agreement of all members of the households that are extended by this arrangement before commencing visits or overnight stays within the bubble. Changing circumstances may mean that a support bubble is appropriate for students in residence who may not have been able to form one previously:

- If forming a bubble with another household in the St Catharine’s community, please let us know for contract tracing purposes by emailing asymptomatic@caths.cam.ac.uk; or
- If forming a bubble with another household that includes members of other colleges, please seek permission from the Senior Tutors of the respective colleges.

All students are strongly encouraged to refer to our accompanying guidance on meeting in person to identify COVID-secure and lawful ways of meeting up with individuals who are not in their own household.

Dining
Catering provision will be restricted to students, staff and Fellows of St Catharine’s College, in line with UK Government guidelines and regulations. Staff and Fellows may only use catering facilities if they are already on the Island site for permitted reasons.

Record keeping
The College has introduced a new electronic system for recording non-College members visiting the Island site. This is available to visitors on arrival at the Porters’ Lodge.