



Support of Students under 18 years of age

Introduction

Orlando Village encourage accommodation applications from all applicants who have offers to study at Bolton University, regardless of age groups.

The Children Act 2004 defines people under the age of 18 years as children and although not specifically covered by the legislation, Orlando Village have an enhanced duty of care towards students who are legally children.

Applicants under the age of 18 years are identified to the Orlando Village staff in advance of arrival such that special provisions can be made for these students where necessary (for example, to ensure that they are not served alcohol at events managed on the Orlando Village site, and to provide extra pastoral care if required).

The Procedure.

1. Orlando Village will not act in a parental capacity towards any child under the age of 18.
2. For overseas applicants where the parent or guardian is not resident in the UK Orlando Village expects that the parent/guardian of the student appoint a UK based guardian.
3. In some cases (where a student is very young, or an application form gives rise to an indication of special vulnerability) it may be necessary to require the applicant and their parent/guardian to visit Orlando Village for a viewing with senior staff. This will ensure the applicant and their parent /guardian have a realistic understanding of the accommodation environment and enable Orlando Village to identify any additional support or particular risks.
4. Students aged 16 or 17 have a legal right to live independently in the UK, and so may make arrangements for their own accommodation. But they require the consent of their parent(s) or legal guardian to do this.
5. Orlando Village will ensure that any member of staff with responsibilities for students under the age of 18 has an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check (DBS) and is provided with training on working with students under the age of 18.

6. If possible, members of staff should avoid situations where there is only one staff member present with a student under the age of 18. On the rare occasion that a confidential meeting is required with senior staff, these will be conducted with two staff members and should be take place in a room where the exit is clearly visible and where realistic, the door left open.
7. Students under the age of 18 choosing to live in Orlando Village will be allocated their own room. However, they will share bathroom and kitchen facilities with other residents which will include adult students and possibly their guests/visitors of the opposite sex. Students are not supervised whilst they are residing at Orlando Village and are free to come and go as they please without the need to sign in or out or inform staff of their whereabouts. Orlando Village is self-catering. Students may contact any member of the Orlando Village team concerning matters relating to their accommodation or any personal issue, but staff are not able to provide constant supervision.

This information will be provided to all students under 18 years of age who are applying for halls of residence.

8. With all students under the age of 18 in the rare event that emergency medical treatment may be required before the parent/guardian can be contacted Orlando Village will assume responsibility to act on medical advice in the student's best interests.
9. Students under the age of 18 will be treated as any other student, which means we will not usually disclose any personal information to parents or guardians unless the student has given us written permission to do so. The only exceptions will be in cases of emergencies and where child protection issues are involved.

Information for Students Under the Age of 18

1. Students who will be under 18 are legally considered to be children under UK Law.
2. You should make yourself familiar with this document and ensure your parent/guardian has sight of this. Below are some points you should bear in mind if you are offered a place on your chose course of study.
3. You should be aware that you are entering an adult environment and we will expect you to behave as an adult. Orlando Village will treat you as an adult throughout the duration of your stay.
4. You will be expected as a student to take care of yourself, make reasonable effort to resolve any issues you have and respect your neighbouring students.

5. You will be treated as any other student, which means we will not usually disclose any information to your parent/guardian (except in the case of emergency) unless you have given us written permission to do so.
6. You will be expected to observe the law with regard to consumption of alcohol whilst you are under the age of 18 and should familiarise yourself with these laws. You should be aware that Orlando Village is an adult environment and therefore alcohol will be consumed on the premises however it is illegal for a child under the age of 18 to purchase or consume alcohol.
7. In the event that emergency medical treatment is required Orlando Village will try their best to get hold of your parent/guardian and/or emergency contact. In the event we are unable to do so, Orlando Village will act on medical advice in your best interests.
8. A risk assessment will be carried out when your application is received to ensure we can accommodate you. Accommodation may not be available, or some restrictions may be placed upon you to ensure that you are allocated an appropriate room. Orlando Village will inform you of any restrictions if applicable or why we cannot accommodate you if this is the case.