

Student Engagement Policy



The purpose of this policy is to:

- To further enhance the Student Experience whilst studying at the College
- To further embed a culture and ethos of student engagement at the College
- To allow the empowerment of students to make positive change within their learning and the future learning of others at the College
- To encourage students as partners in their education and for the College staff to benefit from engaging these students at every level

Who does this policy apply to?

This policy applies to all staff at the College.

Policy Statement

The College is committed to further developing Student Engagement across all sites at the College.

Our aims are to:

- Create and nurture a culture of partnership and engagement and treat our students as partners in learning
- Treat our students with respect and listen to their views through student feedback systems
- Value, promote and embed student engagement across our college's work and ensure that the College processes build in opportunities for student feedback
- Action all student feedback in an efficient, effective and timely fashion in order for students to see their own impact
- Build upon the current student representation structures and commit resources, training and development to support these students
- Help our students develop the skills and confidence needed for participation, leadership, advocacy and deliberation
- Encourage higher participation in all student elections and consultations
- Promote equality, celebrate diversity and ensure that student engagement reflects our students in all their diversity
- Promote opportunities for student involvement in social action, volunteering, personal development and leadership activity
- Encourage our students to become informed, critical and active citizens
- Make the connection between student engagement and values of equality, democracy, the rule of law, respect and tolerance, individual freedom, political literacy and broader social issues
- Develop students so that they have a positive impact on their own learning

Why do we need this policy / background information?

This policy commits the College to maintain and improve student engagement structures and allow students at the College to feel that they have an impact on their education through Student Voice frameworks and structures.

The College is committed to providing the best possible learning experience and enrichment activities by listening to and responding quickly and effectively to student opinion and feedback. In particular within our identified, hard-to-reach students undertaking:

- A Higher Education Course
- An Apprenticeship
- A Foundation course
- An Access to Higher Education course
- An ESOL (English for speakers of other languages) course

The College is committed to providing a rich student representation system that is valued and embedded across all of its sites. As well as providing opportunities for students to develop not only the College systems and processes but also themselves. The College will strive to build student confidence and give them the knowledge to think critically in order to give true, honest and informed feedback

This policy also commits us to providing an opportunity for all students to engage and participate in activities, events, volunteering opportunities and leadership.

The College is committed to developing our students to become the best possible citizens. This is achieved through the College's commitment to the British Values and embedding these values into every process and structure at the College.

Roles and responsibilities

Senior Leadership Team (SLT)

- Be the Student Engagement Champions for the College and help to create an ethos of student engagement and Student Voice at all levels of the organisation.
- Promote an inclusive college that make students comfortable sharing their views and opinions even if they are negative
- Support and help develop the work of the Students' Union and its student engagement activities
- Strive for excellence in student engagement and Student Voice
- Review actions from Our Voice, Our College and monitor the implementation of these actions
- Put students first when building new processes and procedures

Managers and Staff

- Promote an inclusive college that make students comfortable sharing their views and opinions even if they are negative
- Support the work of the Students' Union and its student engagement activities
- Strive for excellence in student engagement and take all opportunities to use and enhance the student voice
- Ensure students participate in all elements of Student Voice including student surveys, Our Voice, Our College weeks and Conference

- Ensure all students know about and participate in Students' Union activities, trips and other enrichment projects
- Communicate any feedback given to them by students through the Students' Union
- Create an ethos of student engagement and Student Voice around the College
- Put students first when building new processes and procedures

Student Engagement Team

- Promote an inclusive college that make students comfortable sharing their views and opinions
- Support the work of the Students' Union and its student engagement activities
- Be a Student Engagement Champion and create an ethos of student engagement and Student Voice around the College
- Create, manage and impact review the current Student Voice systems in place and strive for excellence across the sector
- Create opportunities for students to volunteer, participate and develop
- Put in place appropriate Student Voice frameworks in order for students of all curriculum areas to have the opportunity to feedback their experience
- Develop and review the current Student Executive and Democracy structures already in place to allow a better and more embedded representation system at the College
- Create and follow up on Student Voice and Engagement action plans
- Report feedback from students to Senior Leadership Team (SLT), CLG (Curriculum Leadership Group) and Board members
- Feedback to our students the implementation of their views and opinions so they know the College is taking action
- Give students a variety of ways throughout the year to feedback their views and opinions including Our Voice, Our College Weeks, Our Voice, Our College Conference, Student First Website
- Build and create opportunities for Student Executive and Student Ambassadors to train and develop their skills
- Create interactive and engaging material for PDT's to deliver to the students
- Communicate all activities, events and opportunities to our students through Student First Website, My BPC, PDT's and cross college email system.
- Develop new ways to communicate and deliver engaging events and activities that are open to all students
- Communicate, liaise and work with Senior Leadership Group, Directors of Learning and Learning Managers in order to enhance the systems and processes already in place for Student Voice, Student Engagement, Activities and Events.
- To work with the National Students' Union and other institutions to share best practice

Our Voice, Our College Committee

- Be a Student Engagement Champion and create an ethos of student engagement and Student Voice around the College
- Work with the Student Engagement Team to further develop the current Student Voice systems to make these more responsive to our student needs
- Communicate through the committee any concerns, improvement or praise concerning student engagement, Student Voice or College systems and processes
- Be critical of the systems in place and challenge when improvements are needed
- Suggest new improvements and ideas to improve enrichment for students
- Represent the students views at meetings and work with college staff to implement action plans for positive change at the College

Liaison with external agencies (where applicable)

The College is committed to upholding the Association of Colleges Student Engagement Charter and to follow guidance from the AOC and the National Union of Students in reference to student engagement and Student Voice best practice.

Links to College values and other College policies.

Student Engagement is part of the College values:

- A passion for learning and success
- Supportive and caring
- Respectful and considerate
- A champion for equality through learning
- Ambitious and tenacious

We are also committed to embedding and promoting the British Values within our College daily life:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect and tolerance

Student engagement is embedded in everything we do at the College. There is a close link with the following College policies:

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
Teaching, Learning and Assessment Policy
Supporting Trans Students Policy
Student Finance FE Policy
Attendance Policy

Linked Students' Union Documents BPCSU Operational Plan
BPCSU Constitution

Who needs to understand this policy and how will they know about it?

The following training and awareness will be put in place:

Who?	How?
Students	Policy Available on College Website
Our Voice, Our College Committee	Policy Available on College Website and to be tabled at Student Executive Committee meeting
Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and Central Leadership Group (CLG)	Receive regular updates
College Managers	Policy Available on college Website and MyBPC

Student Engagement Team	Policy Available on college Website and MyBPC. Briefing by Manager
All teaching staff	Policy Available on college Website and MyBPC. Managers to brief relevant staff
All Business support staff who interact with students	Policy Available on college Website and MyBPC. Managers to brief relevant staff

Policy approved by: SLT

Date: October 2020

<p>Bournemouth and Poole College Date September 2018 Function Equal Opportunities</p>
<p>This policy has been examined for equality impact i.e. the impact that this policy will have on different groups of current or potential learners, service users and staff taking into account the protected characteristics of the Equality Act 2010 (age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation)</p>
<p>1. If equality impact analysis is not relevant to this function give reasons and proceed to section 5 below</p>
<p>In what ways could this function have a negative impact on any of the groups above? What actions have been taken to eliminate these?</p> <p>This policy might have an impact on persons with a sight impairment or additional needs in terms of access. Alternative formats can be sent on request</p> <p>2.</p>
<p>3. In what ways could this function have a positive impact on any of the groups above? How will this function be used to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different groups? Are there plans for the future which will further advance equality?</p> <p>This policy will benefit all students who study at the College. This policy ensures that all students across the College can share their voice and feedback on further improvements and positive experiences they have had.</p>
<p>4. What evidence supports your judgements? E.g. Consultations, observations, expert opinions, quantative or qualitative surveys? If the evidence is n the form of an additional document, where is it stored?</p> <p>This policy is developed in conjunction with the Student Executive team, Student Engagement Team and is then ratified by the Policy Review Group, SLT and CLG</p>
<p>5. Name and job title of manager responsible</p> <p>Director of Student Support</p>