

RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEE(S): Domestic Committee

LAST REVIEW DATE: Trinity Term 2026

NEXT REVIEW DATE: Trinity Term 2029

RELATED POLICIES: (1) Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech

Policy on the Management of Protest Activity and Encampments

As approved by Governing Body and effective from

17 June 2026

Keble College recognises and respects the rights of individuals to engage in lawful and peaceful protest. The College also has a duty to safeguard the welfare, safety, security, and rights of its students, staff, fellows, visitors, and wider community, and to protect College property and its operations.

The College is committed to responding to protest activity and encampments in a lawful, proportionate, consistent, and respectful manner. All responses will seek to balance the rights of protestors with the College's responsibilities to maintain a safe environment, ensure continuity of its educational and residential activities, and protect its assets.

In managing protest activity, the College will be guided by the following principles:

- **Safety First:** The safety and well-being of all individuals on College premises is the primary consideration.
- **Respect for Lawful Protest:** The College acknowledges the legal right to peaceful protest and will seek to facilitate lawful expression wherever possible.
- **Proportionate Response:** Any actions taken by the College will be reasonable, proportionate to the circumstances, and based on an assessment of risk.
- **Non-Escalation:** Staff will act professionally and avoid actions that may unnecessarily increase risks.
- **Clear Governance and Accountability:** Decisions regarding escalation, engagement with external agencies, and enforcement action will be taken only by authorised College personnel.
- **Partnership Working:** The College will work closely with Oxford University Security Services, the University of Oxford, and, where necessary, Thames Valley Police and other relevant authorities.
- **Protection of College Operations:** The College will take reasonable measures to minimise disruption to teaching, research, residential life, events, and business activities.

This policy applies to all College-owned premises and to all members of the College community, contractors, and visitors.

The procedures supporting this policy set out the operational arrangements for reporting, escalation, communication, incident management, and post-incident review.

The Domestic Bursar is responsible for overseeing the implementation of this policy, which will be reviewed periodically and following any significant protest-related incident to ensure its continued effectiveness and compliance with legal and regulatory requirements.

This policy should be read in conjunction with [Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech](#) and, in particular, the Annex A (Procedures for Meetings and Events) and Annex B (Guidance on Demonstrations and Protests).

This policy shall be externally facing. It was approved by Governing Body on 17 June 2026 and shall be reviewed at least triennially.