

POLICY ON THE STUDENTS AGED 16 OR 17

The RCM's Senior College provides degree-level education and, as such, students are normally over the age of 18 at the point of commencing their studies. Applicants may exceptionally be admitted below the age of 18, provided they are able to meet the standard entry requirements and can demonstrate the required emotional and intellectual maturity to engage fully with the curriculum and integrate socially in a higher education environment. In most cases underage students will turn 18 during the first term of their first year of study.

Although there is no minimum age for admission to higher education in the UK, students under the age of 18 are classed as children under UK law. The RCM has an enhanced duty of care to these students and the principles of the [RCM Child Safeguarding Policy](#) will generally apply.

Specific arrangements for supporting students aged 16 or 17 and the permissions required from the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) prior to enrolment, are set out below.

Registration and Data

1. The College requires parents to confirm that the student aged 16 or 17 is capable of living and studying independently. This includes managing their own finances and living arrangements, physical and emotional well-being, relationships, communication with RCM staff and a substantial amount of self-directed learning.
2. The parent or guardian will retain primary responsibility for the student's supervision and welfare. The RCM shall not have parental responsibility i.e. will not act in *loco parentis* and shall not be liable for any acts or omissions by the student.
3. The College will require students aged 16 and 17 to provide personal data and sign documents, in particular at the point of enrolment when students will need to read, understand and accept the [College's Terms and Conditions of Registration](#).
4. The parent or guardian undertakes to act as guarantor for the payment of tuition fees and any other fees incurred by the student, until the student reaches 18 years of age. After this point, this guarantee shall cease to have any effect for future debts, unless the parent or guardian confirms otherwise.
5. The parent or guardian is responsible for ensuring that the student complies with the RCM's rules and regulations, in particular the RCM Student Code and Procedures, available at: <https://www.rcm.ac.uk/success/acceptyourplace/>
6. The College has an obligation of confidentiality to the student under the 1998 Data Protection Act. Therefore, the RCM shall not divulge confidential information relating to academic or personal progress to a parent or anyone else, without the prior consent of the student.

RCM Teaching Arrangements

7. In advance of the student commencing their programme, the College will conduct an Enhanced DBS check for the student's Principal Study Professor, personal advisor, and any other members of staff that will come into regular one-to-one contact with the student.
8. The College is an adult learning environment. During their studies 16- and 17-year-old students may come into contact, including one-to-one situations, with peers who are over 18. The College is unable to conduct DBS checks for all members of the College community.

9. All members of RCM staff teaching students aged 16 or 17 will be notified at the start of each academic year and reminded of their duty of care with underage students.
10. RCM staff are not permitted to use social media to interact with or contact young people who are under 18 years old, nor are they permitted to accept a request from or add a young person under 18 as a friend on any social media platform. All communication with students who are under 18 years old should use an official RCM email account and/or software such as Microsoft Teams.
11. Students aged 16 or 17 will not be permitted to participate in overnight trips or tours, for instance for Performance & Programming or Faculty activities.
12. The BMus curriculum may occasionally cover challenging or adult themes. It is not possible for the College to remove curriculum content to accommodate an underage student. Instead, the College applies best practice by providing content notes in advance for all students.
13. Students aged 16 or 17 are, like all students, expected to adhere to the [RCM Acceptable Use IT Policy](#). The College maintains robust network filtering and monitoring to safeguard students from accessing prohibited websites, however it is also the responsibility of all RCM users to behave responsibly online and to follow the acceptable use policy.

Accommodation

14. Only applicants who are aged 17 and will turn 18 during their first academic year are eligible to apply for rooms at Prince Consort Village. If the applicant will not turn 18 that year, suitable alternative accommodation will need to be independently arranged.
15. Parents or legal guardians who are resident outside the UK must appoint a designated UK guardian and provide their contact details to the College (see form below). This is an English-speaking person who is resident in the UK and who can be contacted quickly in the event of an emergency, as well as providing ongoing support to the student.

Health and Wellbeing

16. If the student is unable to consent and it is not feasible to contact a parent or legal guardian, a senior member of RCM staff may give consent for emergency medical treatment, where medical advice indicates that it is in the student's best interests to do so.
17. Students aged 16 or 17 will not normally be able to access the RCM Counselling Service, but they can discuss any concerns and issues with the Student Services Manager, who will refer them to appropriate support. The online service Togetherall is available to any student aged 16 or over.
18. Parents or legal guardians should contact the College immediately with any concerns about the student's health

Social Activities

19. In accordance with UK law, underage students may not purchase or consume alcohol. They also may not hold any positions of responsibility, either for external organisations or for RCM clubs and associations.

Contact Information

Students aged 16 or 17 should contact their designated personal advisor in the first instance with any concerns about their studies or wellbeing.

The College's Designated Safeguarding Lead is Miranda Francis, Head of Junior Programmes, miranda.francis@rcm.ac.uk. Any disclosures by underage students will be reported to the DSL in accordance with the RCM's Child Safeguarding Policy.

Updated February 2024

To be completed by the parent or guardian of the applicant/offer-holder.

If the named applicant takes up a place to study at the Royal College of Music, as their parent or legal guardian, I confirm that I have read and accept the College's Policy on students aged 16 or 17. This agreement will remain in force until the student's 18th birthday.

Name of student			
UCAS Conservatoires ID number (if applicable)			
Date of birth			
Programme of study			
Course start date		Age on first day of term	

Name of UK guardian			
Address			
Relationship to the student			
UK telephone number			

Name of parent/legal guardian			
Relationship to student			
Signature			
Date			

The completed form should be returned to admissions@rcm.ac.uk