St Bede's Catholic High School

Lettings Policy

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty." John, 15:5

This policy document and the content contained therein remains the responsibility of the Headteacher, and Governing Body of the school. No amendments can be made without their express instruction, and they remain the final arbiters in any matters relating to it.

Review date: September 2026

Next review date: September 2027

Reviewed by: J Munro

Approved by Governors:

1. The Governing Body actively encourages community use of the school buildings. However, it reserves the right to refuse any lettings it may choose.

2. Where governing bodies hire or rent out school or college facilities/premises to organisations or individuals (for example to community groups, sports associations, and service providers to run community or extra-curricular activities) they should ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place to keep children safe. When services or activities are provided by the governing body or proprietor, under the direct supervision or management of their school or college staff, their arrangements for child protection will apply. However, where services or activities are provided separately by another body this is not necessarily the case. The governing body should therefore seek assurance that the provider concerned has appropriate safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures in place (including inspecting these as needed); and ensure that there are arrangements in place for the provider to liaise with the school or college on these matters where appropriate. This applies regardless of whether or not the children who attend any of these services or activities are children on the school roll or attend the college. The governing body or proprietor should also ensure safeguarding requirements are included in any transfer of control agreement (i.e. lease or hire agreement), as a condition of use and occupation of the premises; and that failure to comply with this would lead to termination of the agreement. The guidance on Keeping children safe in out-of-school settings details the safeguarding arrangements that schools and colleges should expect these providers to have in place.

3. School and college safeguarding policies should set out the arrangements for individuals coming onto their premises, which may include an assessment of the education value, the age appropriateness of what is going to be delivered and whether relevant checks will be required. Schools and colleges may receive an allegation relating to an incident that happened when an individual or organisation was using their school premises for the purposes of running activities for children (for example community groups, sports associations, or service providers that run extra-curricular activities). As with any safeguarding allegation, schools and colleges should follow their safeguarding policies and procedures, including informing the LADO.

4. The hirer must be willing to meet with school officials and provide details of their aims and objectives. Hirers should follow the appropriate keeping children safe in education guidance After-school clubs, community activities, and tuition - safeguarding guidance for providers (publishing.service.gov.uk)

5. The Governing Body will ensure that the school budget does not subsidise non-school activities and that all costs are recovered. Charges will be reviewed annually by the Governing Body.

6. Each hirer using the school will be required to nominate a contact person. Such a person is deemed to be in charge and able to investigate any difficulties which may arise.

7. The Governing Body will determine if a nominated person from school is required on site when the premises are being used. If not, a responsible person must be on call.

8. A Letting Application / Indemnity Form must be completed by all applicants. A signed copy of the application form, if approved by the school, will be returned to the hirer. For long term lettings application forms will be reviewed on an annual basis.

9. No lettings will be approved giving the user exclusive possession (note: this is a legal requirement, not to be confused with a sole letting).

10. Any hirer that uses the school must be adequately insured (with a minimum of £10m public liability insurance) and insurance documents must be attached to the application. If the hirer does not have their own insurance then school must purchase Hirers Liability insurance separately.

11. All hirers must comply with health and safety legislation.

12. The hirer is responsible for following safer recruitment procedures including that DBS checks have been undertaken and other elements that may be relevant for working with children.

13. Arrangements for the payment of each letting will be made in advance with the hirer concerned.

14. Smoking is not allowed on the premises in line with school policy.

15. Alcoholic Drinks –

    a. An occasional licence must be obtained where appropriate. The Licensee is responsible for conduct of bar sales, etc.
    b. No alcohol is to be stored or retained on the premises when pupils are in school.