

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Scope and Purpose	This Student Code of Conduct applies to all students at Belfast School of Theology (BST).
Policy Owner	Head of Education (with coordination from Head of Operations)
Policy Approval and Review	This policy is approved by the Board and is reviewed following the end of each academic year or more often as required.
Date last reviewed	June 2026
Date next review	June 2027

Our Goal

Belfast School of Theology's (BST) goal is to equip 21st century disciples through theological education that is orientated towards a lived-out faith that impacts the world.

Our Ethos

BST is called to be a welcoming community in which God works to form his people by integrating spiritual, academic and practical education rooted in his Word, for growth in Christian life and service, locally and around the World.

Our Expectations

In light of our vision and ethos we expect all our students to conduct themselves in an honourable manner before God, each other and the wider community.

General expectations of conduct are formed by the following *Guiding Principle*

BST, in pursuance of its Christian principles and purpose in training, seeks to achieve its objectives within an agreed Student Code of Conduct. Throughout the course of their involvement with BST, students are expected to abide by the Student Code of Conduct, which is based upon Biblical concepts of love and respect for individuals, property and the environment, as well as making decisions based on biblical principles, as appropriate to those seeking to pursue servant leadership of others. In our daily interaction with each other, mutual consideration of others, honourable behaviour, mutual trust, concern and equality of esteem are deemed an expression of the values of our community commitment. Each member of the community has a responsibility to embrace a life orientated towards these principles and BST places responsibility for self-government in relation to these on the student body.

The *Guiding Principle* stated above governs all areas of students' involvement with BST including the following specific areas:

1. Academic diligence

We expect students to approach learning earnestly and with due diligence. Examples of academic diligence are attendance at lectures, punctuality and submission of work on time, as well as diligence in setting aside personal study time. It is the responsibility of students to make themselves aware of the academic expectations and disciplinary policies of the University of Cumbria in which they are enrolled.

Students are expected to act in accordance with BST standards of academic etiquette, which are commensurate with institutions in the Higher Education sector.



2. **Malpractice**

We expect honesty and transparency as students present their own work, appropriately cited and referenced, for assessment. Issues relating to malpractice will be dealt with directly by the appropriate regulations of BST, and the University of Cumbria.

3. **Use of Technology**

We expect integrity and respect for staff and other students in relation to use of personal technology (e.g. laptops, iPads and Smartphones). All use is by permission of the staff member leading the activity. Recording of lectures or other BST events is not permitted without express permission of the Disability Officer and the staff member leading the activity.

4. **Internet use**

We expect the internet to be used with care and integrity and in a way which is in full compliance with our IT Student Acceptable Use Policy. Students are required to keep themselves informed of these policies. While internet usage by students is closely monitored, we expect each student to exercise discernment and adhere to Christian values in gaining access to sites and obtaining material. **No software should be uploaded onto any BST computer without the express permission of the IT Coordinator.** Only software which has a full commercial licence (and not just a personal licence for home use) can be uploaded on any BST machine. Under no circumstances can freeware or shareware be uploaded.

5. **Social media**

We expect students to use social networking (including but not limited to Facebook, X, WhatsApp, Snapchat and Instagram, as well as any future developments in this area) with the utmost respect for their fellow students, the staff, the Board and reputation of BST.

6. Restricted access

We expect privacy and property to be respected. All restricted areas on the Stranmillis University College campus are clearly marked, and students should not access any clearly restricted areas. Students should not access any staff designated areas or any IT related areas that are outside their requirement. Students are advised to stick to the main paths and roadways on campus.

7. Responsible community living

We expect a diligent and co-operative approach to all aspects of BST life, in which each student plays an active part in creating a supportive community and in which all students can take responsibility for their learning and growth at all levels, spiritual, practical, academic and relational. We expect responsible life choices in community and respect for the integrity of other people's relationships. We ask that students conduct their relationships in a way in which they would expect others to act towards them, consistent with the guiding principle as stated.

Alcohol is not permitted within the BST area of the campus. *Smoking and vaping* are not permitted on the SUC campus except at the two smoking shelters located outside Central Building and at the bridge access to the Refectory Building within the Halls complex. *Drug or other substance* abuse and any other activities liable to criminal prosecution are not permitted.

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at risk is of the utmost importance to BST. Care must be taken with regard to the presence of children on campus so as to protect their safety at all times. It is the responsibility of students to make themselves aware of BST's Safeguarding Policy and general expectations about community living and as stated in the BST Handbook. Any concerns regarding Safeguarding should be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Officer immediately. For safeguarding concerns where there is an immediate danger of risk or harm, the SUC security mobile number should be used as the initial



contact, but for more serious incidents, external help should be sought, e.g. the emergency services on 999.

The viewing of pornography is strictly prohibited anywhere on campus.

8. Local area

We expect positive involvement and collaboration with the wider general community of SUC and the surrounding area. Students are expected to avoid engaging in behaviour likely to cause annoyance, or distress, to members of this community, the result of which is likely to prejudice the reputation of BST.

9. Vehicles

We expect care and consideration of others. Student parking, at the owner's risk, is available only in designated areas of the Stranmillis University College campus and is governed by the SUC regulations.

10. Insurance

We expect students to make responsible insurance provision for their personal property. While BST holds all necessary insurances for public liability, all insurances for personal risk and property are the responsibility of students and visitors. These include, for example, personal effects around the campus; bicycles left on campus, cars parked in the car park and driven on campus grounds; accidents occurring during sports events or during any other activity; musical instruments; travel and any other risks relevant to each student's personal circumstances.



11. First aid

We expect appropriate action in the case of a medical emergency, as set out in the BST Handbook. BST First Aiders should be contacted in the first instance. If a BST First Aider cannot be located, contact the SUC Security number for SUC First Aid support.

12. Food allergy or intolerances

Students are welcome to use the catering and vending machines provided on campus. Any student with a food allergy or intolerance uses these at their own risk.

13. Security

We expect all students to play their part in ensuring the safety of all on campus. All students should therefore be vigilant; any person in the grounds or buildings who is acting suspiciously should be immediately reported to Reception or a member of SUC Security staff. If out of hours, SUC security staff should be contacted and if they are unavailable, PSNI should be contacted directly.

14. Equipment and use of rooms

We expect responsible and careful use of all property and equipment.

- a. Electrical Equipment in the lecture rooms are not to be removed without prior agreement of the IT Coordinator and should not be used by any student without the express permission of a member of staff.
- b. Musical instruments must be stored neatly after use.

15. Breakages, damages and faults

We expect openness and transparency. All breakages and damage should be reported *immediately to BST*. Payment may be required.



What to Do If You Encounter Defective Equipment

1. **Stop Using the Equipment:** Cease operation immediately to avoid injury.
2. **Report the Defect:** Inform a member of BST staff immediately about the defect.
Equipment will be labelled as defective to prevent others from using it and repair or replacement will be sought.

Our Disciplinary Procedures

All breaches of the Code of Conduct (or actions or activities deemed not in keeping with the spirit of this Code) will normally activate the official Disciplinary Procedures of BST.