

ABBNEY COLLEGE MANCHESTER

INDEPENDENT LIVING STUDENT HANDBOOK 2026-2027



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This Student Handbook gives a summary of the responsibilities of students living in independently arranged accommodation. All students, whether in independent or Abbey College arranged accommodation, are subject to the rules and regulations of Abbey College Manchester.

Please read through the Handbook carefully before signing the declaration on the final page. If any item needs explaining, please contact **Iain Stewart, Assistant Principal and Director of College Operations** who will be happy to discuss it with you.

INTRODUCTION:

For many students, this will be the first time they will have been to the United Kingdom for studying purposes. Abbey College Manchester aims to offer support and guidance to all students in independently arranged accommodation.

For more information about Abbey College Manchester please visit www.abbeymanchester.co.uk

CATEGORIES OF INDEPENDENT LIVING:

Students aged 14 to 18 as at 1st September 2026

Students who are 14 years of age or older may live independently in one of the following ways only:

- With a **parent, or close blood relation (*defined as grandparent, brother, sister, aunt or uncle by blood or marriage*) who is over 25.**
- With a **UK guardian who is over 25 and who has been approved by the parents in writing, with the name, address and relationship to the student. The guardian must be either a friend or distant relative of the family or be well-known to them in some other capacity. It must not be someone that the family have contacted since enrolling at the college.**

Important Note:

Students who are under 16 years old on 1st September 2026 can only reside with a parent, close relative or guardian if they have a British passport or indefinite leave to remain. This is to comply with UKVI visa regulations.

Students aged 19 and over as at 1st September 2026

Students over 19 may live independently as below:

- With a **parent, relative or friend of the family**
- **By renting** a private flat or house on their own.
- **By living with friends** in a flat or house share.

Proof of address must be provided to the college in the form of a tenancy agreement or another similar official document.

Please note that students **are not** allowed to live in any university accommodation.

Important note: As an exception to the above, the following must live in college approved accommodation:

- Students who have been studying at a UK college and who wish to repeat their course of study
- Students who are coming to study in the UK for the first time and have not visited the country previously.

The final decision regarding living independently always lies with the Head of College.

Conditions of living with a guardian or family member

- **All students** must provide the Assistant Principal and Director of College Operations with the name, physical address, email address and telephone number of the person with whom they will be residing.
- The guardian or family member must provide proof of identity e.g. a passport or if not a British citizen a BRP to show their right to reside and proof of their address e.g. a bank statement or utility bill.
- The guardian or family member may be invited into Abbey College Manchester to meet the Assistant Principal and Director of College Operations.
- The Assistant Principal and Director of College Operations reserves the right to visit the home of the guardian or family member with whom a student is residing.
- If any concerns arise regarding the welfare, attendance, punctuality or academic progress of students staying in such accommodation, **Abbey College Manchester reserves the right to remove them from the accommodation and they will be placed in college arranged accommodation (Clydesdale House or Host Family).**
- If any student staying in independent accommodation moves, the Assistant Principal and Director of College Operations **must be** informed and the new address details must be provided.

Conditions of living independently in a private flat or house

- All students will be visited at home within a few weeks of their arrival in the UK, and will have termly visits thereafter throughout the year.
- Students must live in a private flat or apartment and not any type of university flat or halls of residence
- Only students **aged 19 or over as at 1st September 2026** are permitted to stay in a private flat or house on their own or with others and only with the approval of the Head of College

- All students must provide the Assistant Principal and Director of College Operations with the address of the flat or house where they will be residing in the form of a tenancy agreement or other similar official document.
- The Assistant Principal and Director of College Operations reserves the right to visit the student's accommodation at any time during the academic year.
- If any concerns arise regarding the welfare, attendance, punctuality or academic progress of students staying in such accommodation, the **college reserves the right to move them from their accommodation to college arranged accommodation (Clydesdale House or Host Family)**.
- If a student should move to a different house or flat, the Assistant Principal and Director of College Operations **must be** informed and the new address details must be provided.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Illness and absence from college

- Full attendance is an essential requirement of achieving success. There is a minimum requirement of at least 90% attendance and disciplinary action will be taken if any student falls below this requirement.
- However, if a student is unwell there is a procedure for reporting absence which is as follows:
 - ✓ If the student lives with a parent or guardian it is the **responsibility of the parent or guardian** to inform the college of the student's absence. This should be done by phoning college reception **before 9.00am**
 - ✓ If the student lives on their own it is **their responsibility** to inform the college of their absence by phoning reception **before 9.00am**.

Full information regarding attendance can be found in the College Attendance Policy which students receive at induction.

Doctor registration

- All students must register with a medical practice near to their home or they may register at the NHS walk-in centre at Boots on Cross Street which is near to the college. **This must be done as soon as possible after arrival.**
- The college will ask students to provide proof they are registered with a GP.
- If students are ill for longer than three consecutive days, they must obtain a doctor's note to explain their absence.

CONCLUSION:

All students will be subject to disciplinary procedures should they breach any of the conditions in this Handbook.

All students must now sign and date the declaration on the following page.

DECLARATIONS:

Please click here for the online form
or visit <https://www.abbeymanchester.co.uk/independent-living-declaration-form/>

- I confirm that I have read this **Independent Living Student Handbook**.
- I agree to be bound by, and accept, its terms and conditions.
- I understand that if I fail to comply with the conditions of living independently I will be subject to disciplinary measures which may result in having to move into accommodation arranged by or on behalf of Abbey College Manchester.

Student declaration

Full name:

Signature of student: Date:

Parent/guardian declaration

Full name:

Signature: Date:

Abbey College Manchester declaration

Full name:

Signature: Date:

Position:

APPENDIX : TERM DATES

Autumn Term 2026	
Pastoral and Academic Induction (New Students) Tuesday 1st & Wednesday 2nd September 2026 Classes Start - For All Students Thursday 3rd September 2026	
Half Term Break	Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October 2026
Term Ends	Wednesday 16th December 2026
Spring Term 2027	
Term Starts	Wednesday 6th January 2027
Half Term Break	Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February 2027
Term Ends	Thursday 25th March 2027
Summer Term 2027	
Term Starts	Monday 12th April 2027
Bank Holiday	Monday 3rd May 2027
Half Term Break	Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June 2027
Classes Finish	Friday 18th June 2027 For Years 10, 12 and 13 (IFP only)
Public Exams Finish	Tuesday 29th June 2027 (to be confirmed) For Years 11 (GCSE) and 13 (A level only)

Please do not book flights home before college term ends or arrive back into Manchester after the term starts.