



# Oakswood College

Empowering Through Education



## Academic Governance & Regulations Framework

### *Statement*

PROMOTING EXCELLENCE • ENSURING COMPLIANCE  
SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY



GOVERNANCE



QUALITY



COMPLIANCE



EXCELLENCE



# Oakwood College

Empowering Through Education

*(Trading name of Oakwood Group Ltd)*

## Academic Governance & Regulations Framework Statement

### Document Control & Version History

Field	Details
<b>Document Title</b>	Academic Governance & Regulations Framework Statement
<b>Policy Owner</b>	Head of Academic Affairs
<b>Accountable Officer</b>	Chief Executive Officer
<b>Approved By</b>	Academic Board
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<b>Effective From</b>	18 March 2026
<b>Applies To</b>	All Oakwood College students and applicants at all stages of their journey, including pre-entry, on-course, and progression, across Admissions, Academic Life and Learning, Student Support and Wellbeing, Money Advice, and Careers and Employability and areas impacting academic learning
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## 1. Purpose

- This framework sets out how Oakwood College organises, governs and assures its higher education provision across all routes.
- It is designed to provide a single, coherent structure that aligns Oakwood’s practice with the Office for Students (OfS) conditions of registration, Buckinghamshire New University (BNU) regulations, awarding organisation requirements and Oakwood’s internal academic policies and procedures.
- This statement is accompanied by a detailed framework mapping document called “*Academic Governance & Regulations Framework*”.

## 2. Applicability and Scope

- This framework applies to all higher education provision delivered by Oakwood College, irrespective of mode, location or delivery pattern, and covers both the BNU-awarded stream (Stream A) and ATHE-awarded stream (Stream B).
- It is binding for all programmes, modules and academic levels delivered under validation, franchise or approved centre arrangements with all awarding bodies holding a partnership/collaborative agreement with Oakwood College.
- The framework is mandatory for all staff involved in the design, delivery, assessment, quality assurance and management of higher education provision at Oakwood.

## 3. Regulatory and Partnership Context

- **Office for Students (OfS):** The framework is explicitly mapped to OfS conditions of registration, with a particular focus on conditions B1–B5 (quality, standards and student outcomes) and the relevant governance and freedom of speech duties under the OfS E1-E3, E6 & E7-E10 conditions.
- It ensures that all higher education provision in scope of OfS regulation is delivered, monitored and reviewed in a way that evidences ongoing compliance.
- **Buckinghamshire New University (BNU):** For BNU-awarded provision, the framework confirms that BNU regulations and policies govern academic standards, assessment, progression, awards, academic misconduct, extenuating circumstances and appeals, while Oakwood is responsible for operational delivery, student-facing communication

and participation in BNU quality processes (approval, monitoring, external examining and reporting).

- **ATHE:** For ATHE-awarded provision, the framework recognises qualification specifications, centre agreements and awarding body regulations as the primary reference point for standards, assessment and progression, with Oakwood operating as an approved centre and maintaining internal processes (delivery, internal verification, misconduct, extenuating circumstances and appeals) that satisfy awarding organisation and OfS-equivalent expectations.
- **Internal Oakwood policies and procedures:** This framework sits at the top of Oakwood's academic governance architecture and signposts the wider policy library (e.g. Student Complaints Procedure, Personal Tutoring Policy, academic misconduct and extenuating circumstances procedures) rather than duplicating their content, ensuring coherence and consistency across all provision.

#### **4. Governance and Responsibilities**

- **The Academic Board:** Holds ultimate responsibility for the approval, annual review and oversight of the Academic Framework, ensuring that Oakwood remains compliant with OfS conditions, awarding body requirements and obligations, and relevant legislation (including freedom of speech duties). The Academic Board also:
  - reports to the Board of Governors for accountability, risk management and communication purposes;
  - Exercises delegated academic authority for quality assurance, standards and the student academic experience, and oversees the operationalisation of the framework across all awarding body streams.
- **Chief Executive Officer:** Provides executive leadership for regulatory compliance and risk management in relation to the framework and ensures that sufficient resources and structures are in place to implement it.
- **Senior Management Team / Operational Heads:** Ensure that local procedures, handbooks and operational manuals are consistent with the framework and appropriately aligned with awarding body regulations referring into these directly where requisite, and that regulatory updates are monitored and embedded in a timely manner.
- **Programme Leaders, Module Tutors and Professional Services Teams:** Implement the framework in day-to-day practice (e.g. programme approval and review, assessment,

academic misconduct, student support, appeals and complaints) and contribute data and evidence for internal and external quality monitoring.

- **The Wider Team:** contributes to overall student learning and risk management.

## 5. Use of the Framework in Practice

- The framework is used as the primary reference point when developing, approving and reviewing programmes, designing assessments, managing academic misconduct and extenuating circumstances, and supporting student progression and awards, ensuring consistency between awarding body routes.
- It provides a structured mapping between Oakwood processes and OfS conditions B & E, enabling the College to compile and present clear evidence of compliance for regulatory reporting, partnership reviews and internal assurance.
- The framework incorporates an annual review and document version control process, through which legal, statutory and/or regulatory changes (including OfS, OIA, CMA and awarding body requirements as applicable) and internal policy updates are systematically captured, approved and communicated to staff and students.
- All governing documents, policies and procedures are listed in the College's 'Policy Register' which sets out organisational ownership, review cycles and due dates, internal policy owners (to ensure appropriate assignment of lead staff for reviews/updates) and whether the document is required to be publicly available and thus published on the College's website, whether it should be held internally, or whether it is confidential and thus held internally with restricted access.

## 6. Review

- This framework will be reviewed annually by the Academic Board and Senior Management Team, with oversight from the Board of Governors, and earlier if there are substantive changes to OfS requirements, awarding body regulations, requirements and expectation, or Oakwood's strategic priorities.
- Any amendments will be recorded through formal version control and communicated promptly to all relevant stakeholders, with associated policies and procedures updated as required.

