

**Visitations Policy Proposal**

**Rationale:**

As a school which embodies the Harkness method in all its facets, we hope to encourage interaction and conversation between all students, regardless of their sexuality or gender. Fostering these relationships, both in and out of the classroom, is essential to our development as Exonians.

Currently, our visitations policy is treated as one for heterosexual, romantic relationships between students of opposite genders. However, it is important that our school’s policy acknowledges all relationships between students of all genders and sexualities and treats them equally. We aim to make a policy that can be applied to any and every student at Exeter.

We hope to make legal visitations more frequent and natural, while also curbing visitations which go unmonitored. Though we would like the visitations policy to benefit all student relationships, we understand that it will play an important role in romantic relationships as well. Therefore, we intend to reform the visitations policy in a way that will incite a positive change in the sexual climate at Exeter. We hope to prevent students from becoming entangled in uncomfortable situations, since students feel more comfortable leaving a “legal” visitations session than an “illegal” one.

Our goal is to make the visitations policy more effective, inclusive and safe for the entire Exeter community.

**Proposal:**

A student may visit another student’s dorm room from the hours of 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. (or the earliest check-in time of the students present) on school days and 9 a.m. to check-in on weekends by signing in upon entry and out upon departure. Whenever a student has a visitor, the door to the room must be open and the students in the room must be quiet enough so that students in adjacent rooms are undisturbed.

If visitors are being disruptive and/or inappropriate during a visitation, they may be asked to leave by faculty or proctors at their discretion to maintain a respectful dorm environment. This policy applies to all students who visit a room they do not reside in, regardless of their sexuality or gender identity. Members of the same dorm must leave the door open, but do not need to sign-in. It is expected that faculty and proctors will keep the environment of these “open dorms” safe, respectful and inclusive.

If students feel they must to close their doors for the sake of a private conversation, they must contact a dorm faculty member, though approval is entirely up to the discretion of the faculty. Proctors and Student Listeners may also close their doors at their discretion when it is absolutely necessary to fulfill their role as student leaders and confidants. We ask students to keep in mind that closing the door is an exception to the rule and should not be requested with careless or unnecessary frequency.