

Wadham College Statement on Ethical Investment

The College is an educational charity that relies upon investment income to achieve its charitable purpose, and the trustees are under a legal obligation to have primary regard to this in the management of its financial affairs. However, the College feels wider responsibilities to invest ethically and avoid profiting from unethical activities. It therefore does not seek to maximise investment income irrespective of the nature of its investments but to invest in accordance with its ethical standards.

In line with University policy, the College will not invest directly in companies that earn a significant proportion of their revenue from illegal or controversial arms manufacturing, coal or oil sands, or tobacco. Like most reputable investors, the College makes indirect investments in managed funds and trackers that may include companies that do not satisfy its ethical criteria for direct investment. In such cases, it will seek information about the extent to which funds are invested in areas of ethical concern (for example, fossil fuel extraction) and take this information into account in its portfolio allocations. When making such investments, it will seek to include only assets or funds whose investment policies are compatible with its ethical criteria, for instance in applying materiality thresholds to investments in areas of concern, or actively managing them within a framework of meaningful engagement to raise ethical standards, and it will engage with its active fund managers to promote more ethical practices.

The determination of ethical criteria will be made and periodically (e.g. biennially) reviewed by Governing Body on advice from Investment Committee and having considered the views of other interested parties (for example alumni and students) on this matter.