



Boarding Statement of Principles and Practices

for the whole School

Policy revised by	Rob Humphreys
SLT Review Period	3 years
Last SLT Review	April 2021
Next SLT Review Due	April 2024
Governor Review Period	3 years
Governing Committee	Pastoral Care and Welfare
Last Governor Review	November 2021
Next Governor Review Due	November 2024

Mission

In alignment with the School's *Mission* to Nurture, Engage and Inspire and in accordance with the School's child-centred ethos, the Houseparents consulted with boarders regarding boarding, its principles and practices.

The pupils identified boarding as an experience which achieves the following outcomes:

1. To be an integral part of a diverse community of young people;
2. To develop social skills and friendship;
3. To feel safe and happy;
4. To develop academic independence;
5. To develop confidence, independence, resilience and self-belief;
6. To be better organised and to develop a greater sense of personal responsibility;
7. To come off electronic gadgets and to enjoy each other's company;
8. To prepare pupils for senior school boarding;
9. To take on leadership responsibility in the boarding house (under careful delineations);
10. To develop respect for others and their possessions;

The Structure of Boarding

Boarders sign up for a whole term of boarding in advance. The Houseparents allocate each boarder their own bed and boarding space. Boarders choose to board on any combination of Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday nights. There is no weekend boarding provision. The boarding staff encourage all boarders to board as many nights as possible as their confidence grows to develop greater independence and maturity.

Management and Governance

The Houseparents meet termly with the Chair of the *Pastoral Care and Welfare Committee* and write a termly boarding report, for *Pastoral Care and Welfare Committee* meetings. The Chair of the *Pastoral Care and Welfare Committee* meets with boarders for a termly *Boarding Forum*.

Boarding Staff

Our highly-experienced and qualified Houseparents manage a boarding team of both male and female staff, who provide wrap-around boarding pastoral care for all boarders from Monday to Friday. All boarding staff are residential and are on duty on a rota.

Boarding staff supervise prep and music practice sessions in which pupils complete their work to a high standard. They encourage positive behaviour through the use of 'Boarding Stars' and run an extensive and varied activity and trips programme to provide boarders with a variety of fun new experiences. The boarding staff host regular themed events and trips and are on hand to help boarders to manage their belongings, to listen to their views through the use of a suggestions form and termly questionnaires.

Induction of Boarders

The Houseparents allocate *Boarding Buddies* to help new boarders settle into the house and provide thorough induction information through the *Boarding Handbook for Pupils* to every new boarder.

Communication

All pupils have access to phone/email to contact parents or carers, or external services (eg, *Childline*) and the School's *Independent Listener*.

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