

# Queen's College, Taunton

## Statement of Boarding Principles and Practice

### Boarding Principles

Queen's College has a long history of Boarding and believes that the whole school community is greatly enhanced by the presence of boarders.

There are four boarding houses for our UK and overseas boarders. This includes a junior house, Cotlake, catering for boarders from years 3-8. The senior girl's house, Hutton, houses girls from years 9-13 and the two senior boy's houses, School House and Channon, which house boys from years 9-13.

All Boarding houses have social spaces for each year group and the Houseparents and Head of Boarding provide Boarders with a range of evening and weekend activities. Boarders have access to the school facilities during the evenings and the weekends. Weekend activities include cultural visits to Cities in the South west as well as visits to other off-site facilities (e.g. bowling and climbing)

Each house has a residential Houseparent who is supported by a residential assistant. There is also at least one other resident assistant as well as a team of visiting tutors from the academic staff to support the Houseparent. All House staff are well trained, including first aid and mental health first aid training. Boarding at Queen's College is overseen by Carla Shearman and the Designated Safeguarding Lead for the school is Andrew Free, Deputy Head.

All boarders undergo an induction process into boarding and the school. Boarding staff meet regularly and undergo annual performance reviews. Staff regularly undergo training to ensure their knowledge is current and beneficial to the students in their care.

Boarders are provided three school meals in the two dining areas and also have access to kitchen facilities in their boarding houses.

The school recognises that all pupils are individuals and that at times pupils may encounter difficulties. Welfare support is provided by the House Pastoral team as well as onsite medical facilities staffed 24/7 and two counsellors who are available daily.

All Boarders are part of a day house, allowing them to fully integrate into the School Community. All pupils whose parents live outside of the UK must be allocated a Guardian in the UK. A guardian may be a relative, friend of the family or a guardian agency and must be aged over 23 years old. These arrangements must be in place prior to the pupil taking up their place at Queen's.

Through our boarding practice and pastoral care we aim to do the following:

- Queen's College seeks to develop the whole boarder, through a rounded education so the pupil is ready for life after school
- To create a supportive, family atmosphere within the Boarding Houses in which all boarders feel safe, secure, happy and healthy both physically and mentally.
- To provide boarders with new experiences to help them develop confidence and resilience.
- To develop respect: for oneself, for others in the community and for the environment.

- To support Boarders in the development of their (sporting, artistic, academic and performing arts) talents
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- To support boarders progress academically, emotionally, socially, and mentally.
- To help boarders understand the value of team work and provide them with the opportunity to develop leadership.
- To develop a partnership between pupils, parents and guardians through clear and open communication.

To help support these aims we encourage all of the members of the boarding community to:

- Act with kindness towards others. Show respect for the views, feelings and property of others as well as acknowledging the value of our multi-cultural community.
- Ensure they embrace every challenge fully, in all aspects of school life.
- Develop independence and resilience.
- Behave honestly and with integrity at all times.
- Think for themselves
- Communicate clearly and openly, ensuring fairness, consistency and consideration at all times.

September 2020

Carla Shearman, Head of Boarding

Next review September 2021