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Statement Of Boarding Principles And Practice

Boarding Mission Statement

- **Safety** The role of boarding is to prepare students for an independent, resilient, considerate, and proactive life.
- **Respect** Students are helped to be well-rounded, collaborative, respectful, self-motivated and disciplined world citizens who take music into their respective communities.
- **Readiness** Our students should leave the school as confident, curious, decisive, responsible, and outstandingly successful trailblazers, prepared for the challenges of today and tomorrow.

Guidance

We have common-sense rules based upon the behavior principles of Safety, Respect and Readiness, and we aim for careful consideration of individual circumstances. We want there to be collaboration between staff and parents, and for children to know that School and home act as a single team. Parents are generally involved when we have concerns about wellbeing, progress or behavior, and we warmly encourage parents to communicate freely with us about all aspects of our 'in loco parentis' responsibilities.

The overriding principle on which we operate is that everyone is to treat everyone else as they would expect to be treated themselves. No one should ever be treated in such a way as to be made to feel uncomfortable or be put in a situation which makes them feel uncomfortable. It is expected that boarders will develop an increasing awareness of, and tolerance for, people of different views, beliefs or cultures.

We want the students to consider the boarding house as their "home" during term time and, therefore, to try and distinguish between school and "home", we do not have an extensive list of rules. To this end we try and keep rules to a minimum, and we aim to be flexible but the rules that do exist are there to ensure the safe and efficient running of the Houses and they must be followed. Consequences may be applied from time to time such as the temporary loss of a privilege, undertaking a household task or an earlier bed time for a night or two. House staff will use their discretion when applying such consequences and will treat each child as an individual whilst always trying to maintain a sense of fairness and equality. Either the Head of House or the Deputy Head of House is always available for help and advice.

Communal living places some limitations on personal privacy. House staff and students are expected to respect the privacy and dignity of others as far as is possible. Everyone is expected to knock before entering a room and students are not expected to enter other students' rooms if the occupant is not there. Students are not allowed to enter staff accommodation. Student Forum meetings, Prefects' lunches, and Rewards lunches are the only exceptions to this rule. These events take place in the public Reception Room of the Joint Principal's (NS) flat with at least two members of staff in attendance. Students use the toilets located at the end of the North Pole corridor outside of the flat. The Joint Principal's private quarters are not used for these purposes.

Within the Boarding House there is a diverse, and sometimes conflicting, range of wishes. Students have the opportunity to express themselves at house meetings or more privately by talking to house staff. Problems are dealt with by house staff quickly and sympathetically and the students are encouraged to work out their own solutions where possible.

Set staff duty rotas displayed in the boarding houses ensure that the students know who is on duty at any one time. There are three members of staff on duty in each House in the evenings when all the students are there. Students who have concerns may speak to any staff member of their choice.

Trunk rooms are available in each of the Boarding Houses for the storage of luggage. At the end of each term, everyone is expected to remove completely all personal belongings from bedrooms, and from the trunk rooms at the end of the Summer Term. We have a vibrant programme of Holiday Schools and Music programmes where accommodation and space are needed. Alternative arrangements can be made for overseas students or those travelling by public transport; just speak to a member of House Staff.

Students are provided with wardrobes and personal lockers. For safety reasons, we don't allow electrical heaters, fridges or cooking apparatus such as kettles in bedrooms. There are communal facilities available for making drinks and snacks; it's therefore suggested that students bring some basic items such as a mug, cutlery, plate and bowl.

Irons are also not allowed in bedrooms, but all Boarding Houses have fully equipped Laundry Rooms. A Health and Safety inspection of every room is carried out regularly and items will be removed if they are unsafe.

We ask that parents ensure that all of your child's valuables are insured. You may use the Electrical Equipment Form to compile a list of such items. A copy of this form should also be returned to students' Head of House.

Sadly, pets are not allowed but we are always delighted to see photos and have updates from home.

We aim to maintain a high standard of decoration in bedrooms, so students should only use the pin boards provided, if students wish to personalise rooms with posters etc. For safety reasons students are not permitted to suspend wall hangings, fabric drapes or similar items, and these will be removed during any Health and Safety inspection.

The School should be kept clean and tidy at all times; tidiness of bedrooms is the responsibility of the occupants. Cleaners need unimpeded access. Rooms may be checked by House staff and Domestic staff at any time. The golden rule regarding respecting our space is, if you make a mess, clear it up!

We ask that all students show respect to their surroundings, taking care of their rooms and the general School buildings. If any damage occurs and is attributable to students, then parents will be billed for the cost of repair/replacement.