

	Policy Name: Statement of Boarding Principles and Practice
	Owner: Deputy Head
	Last Review Date: August 2020 Next Review Date: August 2021
	This Policy will be revised as regulations or review demands.

Boarding Ethos

Boarding has been an integral part of the life of Mayfield School since its founding. Currently around half of the girls board in some form during their time at Mayfield, and all members of the school benefit from the stable and living heart which boarding gives to the community.

Our school mission to ‘realise the unique potential of each student within an inclusive community that is rooted in the Catholic tradition of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus’ is at the centre of our boarding practice. Boarders at Mayfield grow together in a community which celebrates the strengths and talents and individuality of each person, whilst learning important lessons about respect, mutual support and the responsibilities we all have to those around us.

Structure

Due to COVID-19, we have altered the structure of the boarding houses. Girls board in one of four Houses – St Dunstan’s – Years 12 and 13, St Michael’s – Year 11, St Gabriel’s and Years 9-10, Leeds – Years 7-8. Girls may be full boarders, flexi boarders (up to three regular nights per week). There is also the opportunity for day girls to be occasional boarders when there is space in the relevant boarding house. The School does not have set exeat weekends but boarders may go home or visit friends on any weekend with the written permission of parents, and where relevant a written invitation from their host.

Each house has accommodation and facilities that are appropriate to the needs of the age group living there, moving from rooms of up to four in Year 7 to single study bedrooms in Years 12 and 13.

Management and Staffing

Each House is run by a Housemistress, who works with an Assistant Housemistress, a day matron (in St Gabriel’s and Leeds House), a graduate assistant and a team of Resident tutors to oversee the life of the house and to ensure the well-being and development of the girls in their care.

The Deputy Head oversees the management of boarding throughout the school and is resident on site to support the day to day running of the Houses.

Facilities

As well as sleeping and washing facilities, each house contains recreation and study spaces, kitchens and eating areas, computers, Wi-Fi access and an area where girls can make private phone calls.

The boarders have appropriately supervised access to the School’s Fitness Suite and Sporting Facilities, the Swimming Pool, the Music Block, Art and Ceramics facilities and study spaces within the Main School.

Welfare and support

Housemistresses and their teams work with the relevant Heads of School and Tutors to provide excellent pastoral care. Regular communication ensures that the girls are supported in the different areas of their school life and that each girl has a number of different people she can go to for support, advice and encouragement (see 'Who Can I Talk To' posters which are displayed in Boarding Houses and around the School).

The Chaplain visits the Houses weekly and the Chaplaincy is a resource regularly used by the girls.

The Health Centre is staffed from 7:30 to 18:30, with the capacity for overnight cover when required, by three registered nurses on rotation so that medical support is readily available. The Health Centre has wards and single rooms where girls can be cared for when they are unwell. Surgery time is specifically available for boarders at the School Doctor's surgery in the village three times each week and these times are advertised in the houses.

Activities and Enrichment

A wide range of activities are available to the boarders. During the week a programme runs at lunchtimes and after school. The weekend programme includes regular activities such as Sport and dance, but also a termly programme of enrichment activities run by Academic Staff and trips and recreational activities run by House Staff. Information on this is available in the School's Activities Booklet.

Development

The ongoing development of boarding is a key element of the School's strategic plan. Rising boarding numbers mean that building new facilities will be a priority.

Pupil Voice

Each House runs a House Council where girls can put forward ideas and raise concerns, as well as regular House meetings where daily issues can be raised.

Boarding issues can also be raised at one of the School Councils.

The complaints procedure is available to all girls and their parents and information is in the House handbooks and posted on noticeboards in each house.

This statement should be read in conjunction with other school policies which given more detailed information on the principles and processes of the school, including the Safeguarding Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, Rewards, Sanctions and Pupil Voice Policy, First Aid Policy, Health and Safety Policy. These and other relevant documents are available on the School's website.