



STONAR

## STATEMENT OF BOARDING PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

Stonar's mission is to prepare each student to live successfully in a globalised world by furnishing them with the skills and attitudes to flourish academically and personally. In our boarding environment every effort is made to provide a secure, caring, happy, stimulating experience which allows every boarder to achieve their full academic and personal potential.

The boarding houses are structured to help each pupil feel that they belongs to a smaller, more closely-knit community as well as to the larger community of the whole school. There are 3 boarding houses situated within Stonar's rural campus and these are subject to an ongoing programme of refurbishment and redecoration underlining our commitment to high quality boarding. Boarding is offered from Year 5 through to Year 13 for both girls and boys. Boarders will be house in Hart, Ganbrook or York House. York house is reserved for Sixth Form Pupils. New boarders are allocated to houses by the Head of Boarding in conjunction with the admissions Team who seek to ensure an even distribution of pupils' talents, interests and nationalities. Houseparents endeavour to provide a warm welcoming environment, they hold firm the belief that every pupil has the right to be treated as an individual and boarders are supported accordingly.

The pastoral care structure is designed to encourage pupils to achieve their full potential whilst allowing their individuality to flourish. There is an emphasis on personal responsibility and giving freedom within sensible constraints, with the House Staff providing gentle, but firm guidance if and when necessary. As the boarders become older they are encouraged to take more responsibility for organising themselves and they have the opportunity to hold a variety of age appropriate positions of responsibility within the house.

As Stonar has a fully flexible approach to boarding, day pupils also have the opportunity to stay the night\* and can invite the boarders home. Stonar's fee structure includes two free nights in boarding each term for day pupils in Year 5-13 inclusive (subject to availability in house). This complements and strengthens the family atmosphere and creates vibrant and exciting communities. *(\*suspended during COVID-19 pandemic)*

The resident Houseparent has overall responsibility for their boarders academic work, welfare and development, and are assisted in this role by a Relief Houseparent, Resident Assistants and a team of house tutors. Pupil performance and well-being go hand in hand and House Tutors play a vital role in ensuring that pupils are happy and fulfilling their potential. The House staff are acutely aware of the role they play in ensuring the pupils' happiness and wellbeing and Tutors liaise closely with the Houseparent on all matters concerning the boarders of their tutees thereby, dovetailing the support on offer across all areas of the school.

With the aim of developing a high quality Home, School and Community partnership and to maintain good and effective communication, parents are encouraged in the first instance to contact their child's Tutor or Houseparent; however, they can also contact any member of the School Leadership Team directly to communicate important information or to voice concerns.

The Deputy Head has an overview of the pastoral care in the school; and manages the Pastoral Care Team (PCT). The Pastoral Care team comprises the Head, Deputy Head, Head of Prep, Head of Boarding, Head of Sixth Form, SENCO, Pastoral Intervention Practitioner, Senior Nurse and Houseparents. The PCT meet weekly to monitor individual progress and to review pupils in receipt of Individual Welfare Plans. In addition, the Prep School staff meet weekly to discuss all matters of pastoral care and academic progress for all students. The Head of Boarding meets weekly with the Deputy Head, Pastoral Intervention Practitioner and Houseparents to discuss key matters concerning the welfare of boarders (and day pupils). Matters arising are then discussed in the weekly PSMT, SSMT or LT Meetings as necessary.

A professional Counsellor is available in school one day per week for pupils to see confidentially on request. Appointments may be made through the Health and Wellbeing Centre, Tutor or House Staff. Staff may also

suggest to a pupil that they might find discussion with the Counsellor helpful, though it is entirely up to each pupil to make this choice and to decide whether they wish to inform anyone else or discuss the matter with them. New boarders will routinely meet the School Nurses so that they are aware of support available in the Health & Wellbeing Centre. Parents of new boarders are also encouraged to make contact and meet with the school nurses if they so wish.

Senior pupils are offered leadership opportunities through the school and house prefect system. Pupils are able to voice their ideas and concerns and staff make opportunities to discuss, and where possible, act upon suggestions and to resolve problems promptly. All pupils are encouraged to become pupil representatives or spokespersons at boarding committee meetings, the School Council, the Food Committee and Riding Committee, in addition to this boarders can speak directly to senior staff or raise their concerns at the nightly house meetings.

The houses provide a home from home for our boarders and an environment in which to develop a sense of responsibility and consideration for others. The pupils derive a great sense of companionship and loyalty from belonging to a house. The boarding houses are equipped with a range of facilities including kitchens, ICT facilities and communal areas. The common rooms are warm and inviting spaces, with plenty of soft seating, TV's and DVD players. All bedrooms have large pin boards and Stonar boarders are encouraged to personalise their dorms, they can bring their own bedside lamp, duvet and favourite bed linen if they wish. There is (filtered) internet access via WiFi throughout the boarding houses and much of the school campus.

Numerous inter-house competitions take place, between the competition houses (Kennet, Avebury and Farleigh). Each pupil in the school is allocated to a competition house and they remain in these houses throughout their school career. These events are enjoyed by pupils and staff alike and engender tremendous competitive rivalry, yet the pupils remain highly supportive of each other's achievements. Preparation for these competitions, coupled with a programme of evening and weekend activities, catering for as wide a range of needs and desires as possible, ensures our boarders have plenty to occupy their time. Pupils and parents are able to plan ahead as all the activities are published in the school calendar. In addition to the programme of weekend events the yard is open on Saturday and Sunday; our riders can choose to spend their free time there or competing at local or regional competitions.

It is one of the hallmarks of the house system at Stonar School that, while each house retains individual characteristics which spring from layout, location and the personality of those in charge of its organisation, all houses work together as a matter of principle to follow the same criteria and basic operating methods. The House staff led by example and command the respect of the pupils. The approach within each House is good humoured, fair and consistent, with frequent praise, encouragement and rewards. The establishment of clear boundaries ensures that each house runs efficiently and the boarders know what is expected of them and receive fairly imposed sanctions if they transgress.

The boarders here enjoy the space, the facilities, the commitment and energy of the staff and perhaps above all the friendliness of adults and children alike.

This statement should be read in conjunction with the information and policies which are available on the Stonar website. [www.stonarschool.com](http://www.stonarschool.com) or on request. Examples of which include:

Mission Statement	A-Z of Boarding	Code of Conduct and pupil expectations
The Behaviour and Discipline Policy	Health and safety policy	Child Protection and Safeguarding policy
The whole school policy for dealing with conflict (& counter bullying strategy)		

Last Reviewed: September 2020

Due for review: June 2022