

# Boarding Policy and Statement of Boarding Principles 2021-2022

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Policy Contact: Mr William Yates, Deputy Head

## **Boarding Policy and Statement of Boarding Principles**

### **Aim**

1. The aim of this policy is to provide an overview of the arrangements for boarding at Seaford College. More detailed information on specific subjects is available in other policy related documents.

### **Overview**

2. Seaford College is an independent coeducational school for day and boarding pupils. It offers boarding on a number of different formats including flexi boarding, weekly boarding and full boarding.
3. Seaford College has five boarding houses, Mansion, Walled Garden West, Walled Garden East, Heden Hall and Heden Court:
  - a. Mansion is a girls' boarding house for pupils in Years 9-12. Boarders from Wilberforce (the Prep School) also reside here.
  - b. Walled Garden West and Walled Garden East are boys' boarding houses for pupils in Years 9-12.
  - c. Heden Hall is a boys' boarding house for pupils in Year 13.
  - d. Heden Court is a girls' boarding House for pupils in Year 13.

Each boarding house has a resident Housemaster or Houseparent, helped by a number of Assistants or Tutors. Some of these Assistants are resident. For an up to date list of staff involved with boarding please see the Calendar.

There is always a member of staff resident in each boarding house overnight during term time.

### **Boarding Principles**

4. In order to ensure the pastoral care, welfare and health and safety of its boarders Seaford College aims to:
  - a. Implement the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools.
  - b. Safeguard and promote the welfare of each boarder by trying to meet his/her intellectual, emotional, social and physical needs.
  - c. Provide an environment in which all students feel valued and where equality of opportunity exists with relation to culture, language, gender, religion and in disability matters.
  - d. Provide a boarding experience that will be complimentary to the home experience, and wherever possible to nurture a warm, caring, family environment.
  - e. Provide an atmosphere of tolerance, trust and mutual respect.
  - f. Provide opportunities for responsibility and leadership.
  - g. Provide a standard of accommodation that is comfortable and suited to the needs of boarders, according to age, maturity and which provides adequate levels of privacy.
  - h. Establish and maintain supportive and friendly links with parents and guardians.
  - i. Encourage boarders to achieve a healthy lifestyle in a safe environment.

## **Boarding House Ethos**

5. The boarding houses are designed to operate on the principle of an extended family. Older pupils are given responsibility for some of the supervision of younger pupils, and for other various tasks within the house, but this is monitored closely. The Houseparents and their team are expected to, and do, get to know their pupils and provide the support, guidance and encouragement that they need from time to time.

## **Pupil Voice**

6. The pupils in each house meet regularly and are encouraged to feedback to their houseparents and issues, concerns or positive feedback that they might have about boarding and the school in more general terms. A Boarders Council meets each half of term, chaired by the Director of Boarding.

## **Child Welfare and Protection**

7. Seaford College's aim is to provide the very best care for the pupils entrusted to us. We aim to ensure that every pupil is happy at school and feels that they have a productive part to play in the boarding house and the school.
8. All staff at the school are given regular training in Safeguarding matters. All pupils are encouraged to speak to a member of the house team, a member of the Pastoral Team (in the Pink House), a member of the Senior Management Team, a member of the Medical Centre Team or any member of staff if they have a problem or become aware of another pupil who has a problem.
9. The College operates its own Medical Centre, with a trained sister on either on duty or on call at all times. Boarders are able to see the School Doctor by arrangement and have access to local medical and dental facilities.
10. Pupils with emotional problems are carefully monitored and, when necessary, are referred to our College Counsellor. They will be carefully assessed and where necessary will be referred to our School Doctor who can refer them to the local Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) office.
11. Relevant phone numbers for Child Line, the NSPCC, our Independent Listener and the Director of Children's Rights are displayed prominently in our boarding houses.

## **House Sanctions and Rewards**

12. As far as possible, the Houseparents and their team act *in loco parentis* and, like all good parents, provide a caring, supportive environment for the children in their care. Each house has its own system of rewards and sanctions working within the College's broader system, with the emphasis on encouragement and reward rather than punishment.

13. The College has an active and effective Anti-Bullying Programme and house teams are constantly vigilant for any form of harassment or bullying. Any cases will be dealt with according to the College Anti-Bullying Policy.

### **Communication**

14. Seaford College is a 'home from home' for our boarding pupils and therefore considerable care is taken to ensure that:
  - a. Houseparents and their teams get to know pupils and, as far as possible, their parents as quickly as possible.
  - b. Parents receive regular updates on their child's progress.
  - c. Parents are informed of any problems that their child might be having and encouraged to work with the school to resolve these issues.
  - d. Parents inform house staff if they become aware of any problems with their child.

### **Regulatory Compliance**

15. Seaford College works hard to ensure that it meets all of the regulatory requirements set out in the National Minimum Standards and other relevant legislation.
16. Regular checks are made to ensure that appropriate Health and Safety standards are met in all aspects of College life.
17. The College is subject to regular inspection by the Independent Schools Inspectorate to ensure that all regulatory requirements are met or exceeded.

### **Management and Administration**

18. Houseparents are ultimately responsible to the Head Master for the smooth and effective running of their boarding house. In practice they report directly through the Director of Boarding to the Deputy Head.
19. Regular Houseparents meetings are chaired by the Director of Boarding and are used for the promulgation of information and discussions about topical issues or pupils who are causing concern.