

**The Statement of Boarding Principles** follows which is a summary of our boarding school and is posted on the notice boards in all houses and made available to parents. It is important that all resident staff are familiar with it.



## **The School's Statement of Boarding Principles**

St. Catherine's is a Church of England School which educates girls aged 4-18, with day pupils only in the Preparatory School. In the Senior School, both day and boarding pupils are admitted.

The boarding ethos pervades the whole School, giving it a happy, caring and homely atmosphere. Boarders at St. Catherine's become independent, self-reliant and confident young people who forge friendships for life. The Christian tradition also underpins the *Traditions of St. Catherine's*, the Code of Conduct on which the School and the boarding community are built.

There is a range of boarding options to suit today's parents: full, weekly and occasional boarding (accommodation permitting for the latter).

There are four boarding houses:

- **Bronte** (11-13), located in Main School (first floor)
- **Symes** (13-14), located in Symes House located adjacent to the Anniversary Halls
- **Keller** (15-16), located in Main School (first and second floor) and the Centenary Building (first floor)
- **Sixth Form** (16-18), located in The 6<sup>th</sup> with boarding rooms on all three floors

Each of the four houses is private to the girls who live in boarding. The boarding areas of the school have a different door code to restrict access to just boarders and guests who will be signed in at the duty office. The 6<sup>th</sup> building shares a large common space on the ground floor with the 6<sup>th</sup> formers where day girls are permitted to rest in between lessons. The entrance to the boarding area has a coded access point, this area is reserved for boarders only.

Entry to the School is by academic selection at 11+ and 16+ and boarder applicants are warmly welcomed to apply. At 13+ there are 8-10 further boarding places available, again by academic selection.

The Senior Boarding Housemistress, Boarding Housemistresses, Assistant Boarding Housemistresses, and the Resident Staff are all qualified academic teachers, or qualified support staff who teach or work within the Senior or Prep. Schools. This ensures that boarders are known by those who care for them, both in terms of their academic and their pastoral needs.

A team of Registered Nurses, directed by the Senior Nursing Sister, supervises the boarders' health, in conjunction with the School Medical Officer, a GP from the local Womersley Surgery, located a mile from the School. The school's Resident Clinical Psychologist and the School Counsellors are also available to the boarders.

Details of the day-to-day boarding practice of the School can be found in the publication *The Parents' Handbook* which is reviewed and updated each Summer and distributed to all families.

Helen Harkness

**Senior Boarding House Mistress**

September 2023