



BOARDING SCHOOL

REVIEW

Continuous Improvement for Boarding Schools

The modern boarding school faces many challenges, one of which is that it is often difficult to judge how the boarding house is performing when compared with others. An ABSA review provides a 'critical friend' to analyse all that is occurring, bringing to the review a big picture view of boarding around the world.

Boarding Review Framework

Our Boarding Review will centre around the key areas (as detailed in the National Boarding Standard) of:

- Governance and Management - this will include: Management Structure, Staffing Arrangements, Policies and Procedures in place, Strategic Vision, Risk Management, Marketing plan.
- Boarders - this will include: Child Safety, Welfare, Activities, Their sense of happiness, Academic support, provision for those with particular needs, meals, different cultures.
- Staff: rostering, structure, leadership, accommodation, professional development, teamwork, climate.
- Parent, Family and Community Engagement: The way parents and families are involved with the boarding environment.
- Facilities: Bedrooms, Bathrooms, Common Rooms, Kitchens, Dining Rooms, Outside Spaces, Access to School Facilities, Security, Emergency Procedures, Work Health and Safety.

Possible Interviews:

- Boarders from all year levels, including boarder leaders and possibly some who have already graduated
- Boarding staff from all levels
- Auxiliary staff including cleaners, kitchen staff and maintenance and grounds staff
- Selected Academic staff
- School Counsellor
- Director of Studies, Deputy Principal, Head of Senior School
- Principal
- Bursar
- Parents
- School Council members and Council Chair

If you would like to organise a review please contact absa@boarding.org.au

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We could not recommend strongly enough to boarding schools just what we discovered and subsequently implemented from our ABSA review. The busy and highly logistical nature of a residential community often leads to a lack of reflection and assessment on what's best practice in the field. An ABSA Boarding Review shines an experienced and informed light on your school's boarding program. Importantly, all key stakeholders are included and the process was comprehensive and outcomes focused. The Boarding Review provided us with real feedback on how we were tracking with regard to National Standards, prioritising those areas of our program that needed further development as well as presenting opportunities to further enhance. We developed a boarding specific strategic plan, one that improved outcomes across the board.

*Tony Watt, Dean of Boarding,
The Southport School*

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Over
60
boarding programs
reviewed to date

Example Questions to address:

- Is boarding actively promoted within the College and in the wider community?
- Are high standards in behaviour and conduct expected?
- Do staff model standards with their behaviour?
- Do staff have a good rapport with the boarders?
- Is leadership in the boarding community effective?
- Is there an expectation of a high standard of boarding staff performance?
- Does boarding have an effective and positive relationship with other staff in the College?
- Are role accountabilities and responsibilities clear?
- Does boarding follow the Vision, Values and Ethos of the College?
- Is boarding appropriately supported by the Principal?
- Are appropriate levels of professional development provided for staff?
- Are there methods for appropriate feedback on performance for staff and boarders?
- Does the College address any boarding issues in a positive and effective way?
- Does the College encourage feedback on boarding matters?
- Do staff know each of the boarders well?
- Is the College proactive in contacting parents regarding important information about their son/daughter?
- Are welfare matters relating to boarders are handled appropriately?
- How does the College measure up to the standards?
- Strengths of the boarding program?
- Weaknesses of the Boarding program?

Review Includes:

- Tour of Boarding Facilities with and without boarders.
- Experience a boarder's meal
- Interview Principal and Head of Boarding (at the beginning of the first day of the review, and again to discuss any key findings at the end of the review).
- School will need to provide: Documented staffing structure, Rosters, Staff Handbook including all key policy and procedures which are documented, Recreation plan if it exist.
- Our final report will include a SWOT analysis, a review on how the College stands regarding its boarding provision, suggestions regarding additional work which would help the College attain the highest standard possible and will give an overview of strategies which will assist the College to move forward.

A suggested plan:

- Day 1: Meet with Head of Boarding and Principal - tour boarding facilities.
- Day 2: Meetings - tour boarding facilities (with kids) - possibly eat a meal at the boarding house.
- Day 3: Meetings - final meeting with HoB and Principal

The final report will be issued within two to three weeks.
Our charge for this service is \$7,000 including all costs.