



Policy Name: **Statement of Boarding Principles and Practice**

Owner: Senior Deputy Head

Last Review Date: Sept 23

Next Review Date: Sept 24

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 40% of the students 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

'empower young women to realise their potential in a strong community rooted in Catholic Faith, where everyone is welcomed and nurtured.

foster an environment of trust in which each student is known individually, able to be herself, and encouraged to explore and develop her talents and interests.

deliver a creative, innovative, and academically enriching curriculum which enables all students to grow emotionally, intellectually and spiritually.

provide students with a breadth and depth of opportunity both within and beyond the classroom.'

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

Students board in one of four Houses:-

- St Dunstan's – Years 12 and 13;
- St Michael's – Year 11;
- St Gabriel's - Years 9 and 10; and
- Leeds – Years 7 and 8.

Students may be full boarders or flexi boarders (up to three regular nights per week). There is also the opportunity for day students to be occasional boarders when there is space in the relevant Boarding House. The School has an Exeat weekend during the first May Bank Holiday weekend. 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/parent, who works with an Assistant Housemistress, a Graduate Assistant and a team of Resident Tutors to oversee the life of the House and to ensure the wellbeing and development of the students in their care.

The Senior 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 students 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/parents and their teams work with the relevant Heads of School and Tutors to provide excellent pastoral care. Regular communication ensures that the students are supported in the different areas of their school life and that each student has a number of different people they 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 Lay Chaplain visits the Houses weekly and the Chaplaincy is a resource regularly used by the students.

The Health Centre is staffed from 07:30 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 students can be cared for when they are unwell. Surgery time is available for boarders at the School Doctor's surgery in the village and the girls need to ask the Nurse to book this for them or if they are over 16 they can book this directly.

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 students can put forward ideas and raise concerns, as well as regular House meetings where daily issues can be raised. There is also a suggestion box in each House, where students can post anonymously suggestions or concerns. The school also buys into 'Whisper' a fully anonymous online reporting tool that is manned by pastoral staff to include boarding staff.

Boarding issues can also be raised at one of the School Councils as well as with any member of staff.

The Complaints Procedure is available to all students 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 give more detailed information on the principles and processes of the School, including the Safeguarding Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, Rewards and Consequences, Pupil Voice Policy, First Aid Policy, Health and Safety Policy. These and other relevant documents are available on the School's website.