



STONYHURST

AMDG

Academic Year 2024-2025

STATEMENT OF BOARDING PRINCIPLES	
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Policy Lead	College Senior Deputy Head Stonyhurst Headmaster
Approval Body	Executive Team
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Compliance@stonyhurst.ac.uk

STATEMENT OF BOARDING PRINCIPLES

At the heart of the boarding community at Stonyhurst lie the values and ideals of the Jesuit educational mission. Boarders (and day pupils alike) are encouraged to grow in virtue and to develop the spiritual life necessary for them to become mature, caring and responsible Christian adults. Through life in our boarding community, we aim to instil in all pupils, characteristics such as compassion, an ability to see God in all things, forgiveness, a desire to care for the less able and to treat each person equally.

Our unique Playroom system provides an outstanding quality of pastoral care, where the pupils bond as a year group (Playroom) and remain together as they move from Playroom to Playroom every year. The strength of their friendships is palpable, as is their support for and understanding of one another. As a group, they learn to respect one another's differences, face challenges together and delight in one another's success. As individuals, they give their very best in all that they do, to the greater glory of God. They have the support to grow in personal and academic confidence, to step beyond their comfort zone without fear, and to contribute to the community both within and beyond Stonyhurst itself. Stonyhurst pupils come to appreciate the creative tension between independence and interdependence, and they do so with openness, generosity of spirit and enthusiasm. Boarding at Stonyhurst develops a firm sense of community amongst all the pupils and helps to develop friendships that will be sustained and be sustaining in life beyond the College. We believe that the Playroom system at Stonyhurst provides the bedrock upon which supported independence and youthful fellowship can be built. Pupils learn to treat each other and all members of the community with kindness, sensitivity and respect.

Although most of our boarders are full boarders, we have a number of weekly boarders (where space permits); we also offer some flexi-boarding to families where this might be helpful, again, space-permitting. The accommodation is structured in an age-appropriate way, with younger pupils living in bedrooms of 4 – 5 pupils, while older pupils may share twin rooms or have single bedrooms.

Each boarding house is headed by a Houseparent and supported by the Assistant Houseparent. Some Graduate Assistants and GAP students are also resident, and they support house staff during the evening and at weekends. The opportunity to live and work alongside people from varied backgrounds and countries is a genuine privilege. Pupils work with teachers, other members of the adult community and with other pupils in ways that go beyond the formulaic relationship imposed by the classroom or laboratory. It is a caring, supportive and prayerful community with Jesus Christ at the centre.

Playrooms are staffed by teams of adults who work generously to sustain and uphold the health and happiness of the young people in their care. We seek partnership with parents, based upon our ethos, which enhances the well-being and prospects of Stonyhurst pupils. Houseparents are supported by resident staff, duty staff, tutors and Health Centre staff. Each Playroom has its own character, dependent on the age, the mixture of nationalities and the interests of the pupils within it; in essence, it is the pupils themselves who define the character of their Playroom, encouraged and guided by their Houseparent. The working week at Stonyhurst is full and weekends offer a rich programme of structured activities, social occasions and other recreational opportunities.

LDS