DEAN CLOSE
ST JOHN'S
CHEPSTOW

Statement of Boarding Principles and Practice

'It is the aim of the Dean Close Foundation and Dean Close St John's School to provide a full and balanced life in the caring, family atmosphere of a Christian coeducational school; to enable young people to develop relationships and fulfil their potential as individuals in a secure and happy environment and thereby learn to play their full part in society as a whole.'

Statements of Boarding Principles

We want all of our boarders to feel safe, happy and at home in the boarding house.
We encourage our boarders to be involved in all aspects of school life, to have lots of new experiences and to grow and develop into confident, independent and positive individuals.
We provide structure and guidance to help our pupils develop into healthy, well-balanced and thoughtful young people.
We strive to ensure that all boarders are able to flourish as part of an inclusive, mixed community, making a positive contribution to the school and to society as a whole.
We endeavour to maintain regular and open communication between parents, staff and boarders.
There should be equal opportunities for all boarders.

Statement of Boarding Practice

1) Members of the senior leadership team have specific responsibility for aspects of boarding overseen by the Head. These include the:
a. Designated Safeguarding Lead – responsibility for safeguarding
b. Deputy Head – responsibility for the day to day running of the school including boarding; behaviour policy and practice; co-curricular activities
c. Director of Studies – responsibility for the academic progress of boarding pupils
d. Head of Boarding (is not a part of SLT) – manager of Boarding House Staff, weekend activities, liaises with parents

2) There is also a designated trustee (governor) who has oversight of the leadership, management and delivery of boarding and welfare provision.

3) The Foundation values of flourishing, contribution, courage and love ensure that all boarders are encouraged to fully engage with life at school and that their wellbeing is actively promoted.

4) School boarding practice is informed by the following key documents:

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a. National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools (Department for Education May 2026)

b. Keeping Children Safe in Education (Department for Education September 2025)

c. Working Together to Safeguard Children (HM Government March 2026)

d. Dean Close Schools Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy (W044 September 2025)

e. Dean Close St John's School Nurturing Positive Behaviour and Wellbeing Policy (SJ404 September 2025).

5) Policies concerning the management of boarding and the welfare of pupils are updated regularly and comply with the requirements of the DfE and ISI.

6) The Child Protection Online Management System (CPOMS) database is used to record all serious welfare and safeguarding issues involving boarding pupils and is used to produce records and logs of bullying, safeguarding, and other incidents as required.

7) Dean Close St John's School treats all pupils equally and ensures that they are not discriminated against within the boarding environment.

8) The boarding provision ensures that:

a. All pupils are treated equally regardless of race, colour, gender, SEND needs or any other distinctive characteristic
b. The boarding programme is inclusive and provides for all boarding pupils whatever their background
c. Diversity is maintained and celebrated within the Boarding House and the school as a whole
d. HsPs and other boarding staff are aware of the legally protected characteristics and requirements set out in the Equality Act 2010
e. Where possible, reasonable adjustments are made to the physical fabric of the boarding houses as well as systems and procedures, to ensure all boarding pupils feel welcome and included.