



Boundary Oak School

Boarding Handbook

Information for Pupils





Welcome

We are so happy that you are joining boarding at Boundary Oak, and we can't wait to get to know you.

You may be feeling a mixture of emotions as you start this journey, some children are excited, others are very nervous. We want you to know that we are always here to help and support you every day you are with us.

Learning the routines and being away from home can take some time to get used to, but very soon our wonderful boarding house will feel like a second home.

Boarding feels different for every child here; you may only be boarding with us a few nights each week, or perhaps you are here as a full boarder. Some children have family close by; others have come from overseas; whatever your situation we will make sure you feel cared for and safe.

Settling into boarding life is a big step, but before you know it, you will have a big boarding family to share good days and bad days. We have a lot of fun, and you will make friends and memories to last a lifetime.

This handbook will give you some helpful information and advice to make the first few weeks feel a bit easier. You will have a boarding induction over the first week you are here, which will cover a lot of this information in more detail.

Miss Rutherford

HEAD OF BOARDING



Where Will I Sleep?

We are lucky to have a beautiful boarding house with so many bedrooms. Boys and girls have their bedrooms in different sections of the house, and each bedroom is individually designed to feel like home. Picking which room you will have is our job as we must make sure we place you in rooms with children of a similar age, boarding pattern and personality. We will take your wishes into consideration when planning the rooms and sometimes it can take a few weeks to get to know your roommates. If you are in Year 11 you will have a room with a study space as you can do prep in the boarding house. We try very hard to keep friends together, but we do have to make sure everyone has the chance to have a good night's sleep.



What Can I Pack?

A packing list will have been sent to your parents, but we have suggested a few things that can really help you settle in. You will have photo frames by your bed, and we really love to have these filled with pictures from home. We love to see photos of your family, friends, and pets. We provide duvet covers and pillowcases, but if you want to bring your own, then you are very welcome. Bringing a cosy blanket is also a great idea as we will be having campfires and movie nights. A reading light or torch is very useful if you want to read after lights out. Home clothes are important, and you will need a different amount depending on how often you board. Make sure your home clothes are named and not too expensive; we often do messy activities! When packing, remember the great British weather and make sure you have warm and waterproof coats and shoes. Teddies can stay for free at Boundary Oak, and we love to see them sitting on your beds whilst you are working hard at school.



Can I Have Food in the Boarding House?

Absolutely! We call food from home, “tuck” and it is an important part of boarding life. We have a lovely little kitchen which you can use in the evenings and weekends. There will be a space for you to store your tuck, and we always go to the shops at the weekend to stock up. There are bread, cereals and fruit available in the house too, so you won't be hungry. If you are staying for weekends, noodles and microwave snacks can be a good idea if you get hungry in-between meals. We can't have any nut products in school, so make sure you read the labels before packing. Caffeine and energy drinks are also not allowed. If you are from overseas or have been on holiday, we love to try different treats and snacks so feel free to pack some to share!



Can I Call Home and Use My Phone?

You can have your phone in the evenings and are welcome to call home during this time. If your parents are overseas, let us know and we can arrange a better time to call. Sometimes calling home before bed can make you feel a bit homesick. If this happens then we can rearrange calls to a different time and help you keep calls a bit shorter. During the weekends you will have time to use your phone, but you won't have it for the whole day or overnight. Phones are kept secure until you need them.

Do I Need Money?

If you are staying at weekends, then it is very useful to have access to some pocket money. We prefer you to have a card or account accessed by your phone as this keeps money safe. If you have any cards or cash, make sure you let us know so we can keep it secure until you need it.

Who Will Look After Me?

We have an amazing team of staff to look after you when you are boarding. Miss Rutherford is the Head of Boarding, Mr Rowe and Mr Barrett are Boarding Tutors and live in flats that join the house. We are the core group of staff that organise and run the house and one of us will be on duty every morning, evening and weekend. We couldn't run our house without our wonderful Boarding Assistants. They are a group of staff that are with us for a year and help in every department within school. They also help in the boarding house and will run a lot of your activities and come on our weekend trips.



Mrs Amy Rutherford

HEAD OF BOARDING



Mr Jacob Rowe

BOARDING TUTOR



Mr George Barrett

BOARDING TUTOR &
HEAD OF CATERING



How do I Learn the Routines?

There is a lot to take in when you start boarding. There are routines for laundry, daily routines, and fire drills to learn; this will all be explained to you when you start, and before long you will feel like you've always been here. We have an induction during your first week where you will learn about the house routines, medical and tech. There are other boarders who have been here for a while, they will always help you too.

Are There Any Rules?

We feel that during your school day there are a lot of rules therefore we try to keep things simple in the house. We ask that you keep safe and respectful and that sleep is taken seriously. There are separate rules about the use of phones and tech that will be explained during your induction. You can earn house points for being amazing in the house; these are converted to vouchers or treats.

What Happens in the Evenings?

After your clubs and Big Tea, there is time for study and downtime. Different year groups do clubs and prep at different times and places; however, every evening you will have a chance to relax and enjoy being with your boarding friends. We plan quizzes, movies, games and music which we encourage you to join in with. You will have time to shower, collect laundry, and have some phone time too. Bedtimes are staggered with the younger children heading to bed from 20:30, by 22:00 everyone is in bed and we expect the house to be quiet.

What Happens at Weekends?

Weekends are the best days in the boarding week; we have a lot of fun! The whole half term is planned in advance, and you will have been sent this along with this handbook. Every weekend there is a shop visit to stock up on toiletries and tuck, we make sure there is time for exercise and sport, downtime with friends, phone time and fun trips. If you have been invited to friends' houses or to parties, we can chat with your parents and make arrangements for you to go. At the end of each half term, we have a bigger day out; all boarders are invited to join this trip even if you only stay with us a few nights a week.



Where Do I Go if I Feel Unwell?

We have a lovely Nurse who will look after you if you are feeling poorly, you will meet her during your induction and will know where to find her. If you feel unwell in the night you can wake up the staff that have their homes adjoining the house. We will let your parents know you are feeling unwell, they might want to collect you, or you can stay in one of our cosy sickbays until you feel better.



Main Sports Field

Pool & Astro

8

Senior Lawn

5

Parking

9

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| 1. Gatehouse | 10. Kellett Block (Senior School) |
| 2. Art & Design Studio | 11. Acorn Theatre |
| 3. Design & Technology | 12. Pre-Prep (Reception to Year 3) |
| 4. Little Acorns Pre-School | 13. Witley (Year 4 & 5) |
| 5. Main School Building | 14. Science Labs |
| 6. Boarding House | 15. Jubilee (Languages) |
| 7. Dining Hall | 16. Music |
| 8. Woodland School | 17. Sports Centre |
| 9. Outdoor Learning Area | |



Boundary Oak School

Where We Flourish

Roche Court, Wickham Road, Fareham, Hampshire, PO17 5BL

(0)1329 280955 | admissions@boundaryoak.co.uk

www.boundaryoakschool.co.uk