



King's College

TAUNTON

Boarding Policy, Principles and Practice

Responsibility

Individual: Head of Boarding

Review

Last review date: December 2021

Next review date: December 2022

INTRODUCTION

King's College aims to provide a caring and stimulating boarding environment, where boarding contributes to pupils' overall development. Learning to live and grow up in a boarding community offers opportunities for pupils to develop as individuals in a number of important ways:

- Developing values – from experience and sharing come respect, tolerance, courtesy and a growing responsibility for others (practised particularly as mentors and prefects)
- Developing self-awareness and resilience – becoming aware of one's strengths and weaknesses and those of others
- Developing increasing physical and emotional independence and freedom of thought, particularly valuable in preparing for life post-King's

There are seven houses at King's College, three girls' houses and four boys' houses, all containing a mix of boarding and day pupils. Evenings and weekends see a range of activities both in school and off-site for pupils to get involved in and to develop their talents and interests. Opportunities for leadership, present in many extra-curricular activities, are also promoted through the prefect system, which is an important part of the pastoral structure in our boarding houses.

Our boarding practice aims to:

- Promote the welfare, safety and health of every individual
- Enable every individual to fulfil their potential and to access economic well being
- Encourage physical, spiritual, social and moral development
- Promote and develop a sense of individual identity within a community through common practice and activity
- Work as a partnership with parents/guardians through effective and clear communication

Our driving aim is for our pupils to be fulfilled and happy and this has at its heart the need for them to feel secure and cared for by well-qualified and experienced staff who are well disposed to children and who are supported in their caring tasks by regular and appropriate INSET.

A boarding education provides opportunities to encourage the development of both the individual and the community and is also a means to instil and develop personal values.

Our aims are realised by:

- Clear communication of the principles to and by those with boarding responsibilities
- Full acceptance and adoption of these principles by all those with boarding responsibilities
- Implementation of appropriate policies and processes in the areas of pupil welfare
- Monitoring and reviewing policies and practice and evaluating standards of boarding
- Dissemination of good practice through effective teamwork and transparent communication
- Development of a good model of pastoral care which must be appropriately staffed
- Physical conditions of which satisfy (preferably exceed) national minimum care standards
- Appropriate training and induction of those responsible for boarding, updated regularly as appropriate
- Providing an organised and varied programme of activities outside the curriculum

Our boarding structure:

- Single sex boarding houses – seven houses (4 boys' houses, 3 girls' houses)
- Boarding houses are vertical with pupils in each of the years 9-13 and consist of both Boarders and Day pupils
- The composition of the boarding houses gives pupils the opportunity to mix with a wide range of people of different backgrounds, cultures and talents
- Boarding houses are led by qualified staff who have been identified for their appropriateness for this pivotal role
- Boarding staff receive appropriate induction and training, both through external BSA courses and through internal training and mentoring
- Boarding houses are staffed by resident Houseparents and a resident deputy or matron and a wider team of non-resident tutors
- Each house has a team of tutors with academic and pastoral responsibility for pupils in one year group (years 9-11)
- An ongoing and regularly reviewed programme of refurbishment and redecoration is critical to our commitment to high quality boarding accommodation

Key features of our pastoral care and boarding provision:

- Expectations are agreed and understood and reflected both in policy and practice
- The Deputy Head (Pastoral), supported by the Deputy Head (Academic) and the Head of Boarding coordinates boarding life and practice through regular communication with boarding house staff and pupils
- The Deputy Head (Pastoral) is the Designated Safeguarding Lead, the Deputy Head (Academic) and the Head of Boarding are the Deputy Safeguarding Leads.
- The School Council has a designated Boarding Governor who is available as a sounding board/source of advice on request.

- The Houseparents meet formally every fortnight, with meetings attended by key members of the Senior Management Team. These meetings are minuted, with minutes available for all staff to read via the school's intranet. These meetings promote consistency of practice and discuss a wide range of pastoral issues. The Head of Boarding and the Houseparents also meet every other fortnight to discuss issues and to share good practice.
- All staff are regularly informed about key pastoral issues and Houseparents meet their own teams regularly to discuss issues
- Policies are reviewed regularly
- All houses have prefects, whose key roles are that of pastoral responsibility/care for younger pupils and to assist with House/School logistics
- Boarding staff and key members of the SMT are easily accessible to pupils and the Headmaster operates an Open-Door session every week which is specifically for pupils to come and talk about any issue. In his absence this is fulfilled by the Deputy Head (Pastoral)
- Our Health Centre provides 24/7 care and is staffed by a team of nurses, Health Centre assistants and doctors from a local surgery
- The Chapel and the school Chaplain are critical to the community and to our pastoral support for pupils, staff and parents alike
- We employ a school counsellor who comes to the school Health Centre two days each week. The counsellor is available to pupils, staff and parents and also discusses key issues with the school's pastoral team
- An independent listener is available for boarders to talk to and external advice lines/websites are publicised in the school and in boarding houses
- Year group forums exist for pupils to air their views. These meetings are minuted, with minutes sent to Houseparents and the SMT for discussion, response and action as appropriate. Houses meet regularly and are also a means for pupils to air their views. Senior prefects meet key SMT members regularly to discuss issues and feedback views from the wider pupil body
- Tutors meet with their tutees regularly
- Parents are involved in the life of the school through school and house events and also through whole school communications and PA events