

Boarding principles and practice

(Reviewer: Katy Jacques, January 2022)

(Agreed by SMT, January 2022)

A boarder at Hurst has the opportunity for the widest and most extensive use of the College's resources, the aim being for them to develop as successful, aware, independent, mature and confident people. They learn to work collaboratively and co-operatively, respecting difference and displaying emotional intelligence. As a Woodard school we intend that our spiritual and moral compass will guide their future lives. Difficulties are sympathetically met and professionally counselled, any instances of a disciplinary nature are swiftly sanctioned and the pupil subsequently encouraged to move forward.

The Boarding Community falls into two categories: flexi for those pupils who board three nights a week and weekly for pupils who board five nights a week. For years 9 – 12, there are six boarding houses. For the girls we have Pelican, Martlet and Shield and for the boys Red Cross, Star and Eagle. All weekly and flexi boarding pupils are accommodated in these six houses. In the final Upper Sixth year all pupils move into the co-ed house, St John's, where boarders have single study bedrooms.

These houses are run by Housemasters and Mistresses who are supported by a further fully involved resident team (many of the school's teachers live on site). There are high standards, expectations and the boarding houses are characterised by the school's "can do" atmosphere. There is an emphasis on personal development and the achievement of personal bests in the full range of co-curricular programmes- sporting, community, activity [CCF/DoE] creative, cultural and intellectual. We are academically ambitious for every individual pupil and we support and care for all our pupils through a well organised and resourced tutorial system. The pupils also have many opportunities to express their opinion in such forums as the School Pupil Council and in Guardian meetings. By their very nature, the Boarding Houses have a particular responsibility for ensuring that all these expectations are met. Though there are no full boarders in the school, the Boarding House staff recognise the importance of their role for the children in their care. Their responsibility "in loco parentis" is keenly understood and warmly embraced as part of the Hurst DNA.

The College is in loco parentis in terms of its pastoral care of boarders. It has a consequent duty of care for the safety, health and wellbeing of all pupils. Although we act in loco parentis, we maintain close and supportive relationships with pupils, parents and staff, working as a team. Indeed, we are aware that the majority of those boarding actually live quite close to the school and for them boarding is a matter of choice rather than necessity.

Most staff are attached to a house and, as a result, tutor students within that house.

If a member of staff lives on site, normally they are attached to a boarding house which includes an evening duty up to 23:00. A member of staff who lives off site is normally attached to a day house where the duty day finishes at 19:00.

We are committed to offering the best possible educational experience for the pupils in our care and to that end we regularly review and adapt our systems to ensure that high standards are maintained and expectations met.