



ST LAWRENCE
COLLEGE

STATEMENT OF BOARDING PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

Boarding Principles

Working closely with parents we aim to create an atmosphere in which success and achievement is championed, resilience and independence encouraged, and confidence, maturity and responsibility developed.

Every child at St Lawrence College, regardless of age, race, religion, nationality, sexual orientation or cultural background has the right to be treated equally with respect and as an individual. Through a range of activities and, to the best of its abilities, St Lawrence College promotes equal opportunity and multi-cultural issues.

Within any school, learning is the primary focus. The atmosphere within the Boarding House should reflect this principle. It should be conducive to study and both promote and value academic progress and achievement. Pupils should therefore be able to work undisturbed and have access to avenues of academic support, be it tutorial or peer support, whenever necessary. These aims will be achieved through well-structured study time during the school day as well as in the Boarding House. Formal and informal monitoring of academic progress, and also personal progress and welfare, are continuous during a pupil's time at St Lawrence College.

Boarding at St Lawrence College should, as far as possible, reflect family life. We aim, therefore, to be an open and trusting community where a sense of individualism and collective responsibility is fostered. Within our community pupils should feel safe and secure, free from the threat of all forms of bullying and in an environment where they can be happy, healthy and fulfilled.

Boarding at St Lawrence College should develop a strong moral sense, where pupils pride themselves upon being truthful and honest. They should have a high regard for the happiness of others and respect for both their possessions and privacy. We aim to develop leaders and team players; self-confident young people who can work with others. Prefects and other senior pupils within the House will be trained by House staff so that duties are carried out in a fair, reasonable and altogether unthreatening manner.

Boarders must be able to contact parents, family and friends either in person, by post, by email, telephone (landline or mobile) or online.

St Lawrence College provides a wide range of facilities and opportunities for its boarders: academically, in Music, Art, Drama, ICT, Sport and in many other ways. These facilities are available throughout the week, and particular attention is paid to ensure that there is a full programme of weekend activities. St Lawrence College actively encourages involvement in exercise and sport as an aid to both physical and mental wellbeing and also promotes a healthy lifestyle with guidance on all aspects of personal and social development including: alcohol, tobacco, sex, diet and drugs.

A high priority is placed on maintaining pupils' safety around the school site and within the local area. In addition to clear guidelines for pupils themselves, St Lawrence College is covered by CCTV cameras and has a 24 hour security presence. Permission to leave school bounds may be granted by members of the House team, and with regard to pupils' safety and welfare. Pupils sign in and out when leaving the premises or returning.

The whole House must be seen as one community – Boarding staff, their families and pupils. The relationships between pupils and staff must be one which engenders mutual respect and enables easy dialogue and the sharing of feelings.

Boarding Practices

St Lawrence College has 4 boarding houses, Lodge and Tower houses, situated in the main school building, Bellerby, situated next to the Theatre and Kirby House, based between the Junior School and the senior part of the school. All senior houses have a Housemaster or mistress (HSM), a Deputy HSM and a resident tutor, non-resident tutors and academic tutors as well as a matron; In Kirby House there is a HSM, Boarding Duty assistant and 2 Deputy HSMs as well as 4 gap tutors, a Junior Boarding House Mother and a matron.

Boarding at St Lawrence College is the responsibility of the Principal assisted by both the Deputy Head (Pastoral) and Deputy Head (Registrar) Head of Boarding who are the immediate points of contact for the HSMs. In the Junior School the Head is supported by the Boarding House Mother.

Boarding Aims

In boarding, we aim to:

- develop the whole person, a desire for truth and a respect for others;
- produce an open and trusting ethos in which each boarder feels able to approach any other member of the community (staff or pupil), confident in the knowledge that he or she will be treated and respected as an individual;
- create an atmosphere of tolerance, openness and trust in which teasing, harassment and bullying would find great difficulty in developing;
- provide the conditions for boarders to develop their intellectual talents through well-structured homework conditions, access to staff and other pupils, participation in activities and in an atmosphere which values effort;
- provide a range of activities, hobbies and opportunities related to age and maturity that will assist in the personal, social and cultural development of each boarder;
- safeguard and promote the welfare of each boarder, by providing an environment that is, as far as possible, free from physical hazards and dangers of any sort;
- provide accommodation that is comfortable and suited to the needs of boarders, according to age and maturity, and which provides adequate levels of privacy;
- develop boarders' responsibility for self, for others and for the environment;
- develop boarders' qualities of leadership and ability to work as part of a team;
- encourage boarders to contribute to the needs and welfare of others in the house and school, as well as those in the wider community;
- provide suitable conditions for boarders to feel able to turn to members of staff to share the good things in their lives, as well as seeking advice, counselling and support during times of difficulty.

Medical Arrangements

Medical matters are the responsibility of the School Nurse operating from a 24hr onsite medical facility. Pupils are registered with a local Doctor who visits the school twice every week. The School Nurse is available 24 hours a day either on call or in the Health Centre.

Supervision

There is adult supervision in the Boarding House at all times by an identified member of staff. Each member of this team has a clearly defined role and job description which details their particular responsibilities.

Duty Rotas are published and pupils are aware who is on duty. The Housemaster organises the rota of supervision with each member of the team supervising the House in line with their responsibilities set out in their job description. Whilst on duty the member of staff must be on-site throughout the duration of the duty.

Boarding staff are fully aware of the House rules, systems, fire procedures and have access to emergency telephone numbers if required – including the Principal and Deputy Heads. Regular formal and informal meetings of Boarding staff take place to ensure the effective exchange of information. Additionally a formal handover of duty will take place when the member of staff on duty changes, again with all relevant information exchanged.

An incident book is maintained within the House to ensure a formal record is kept of all incidents. House registers, including details of any absences, are kept.

Privacy

Living with others in a boarding house places obvious limitations on personal privacy. It is expected that Boarding staff and pupils respect the privacy of others as far as possible. Staff should 'knock and wait' before entering bedrooms; pupils should be allowed to dress, undress and wash free from unnecessary staff intrusion. Pupils' en-suite facilities should be discretely monitored for Health & Safety purposes but staff must only enter if there is no response.

Staff resident in the boarding house should be discreet as their accommodation will be in close proximity to rooms. Staff must behave appropriately within this accommodation and be ever mindful that there will be significant interaction between the pupils and staff accommodation.

Complaints

Pupils should be fully aware about how to make a complaint. The Complaints Procedure will be published to all pupils at the start of each academic year. Additionally it will, at all times, be published on the House Notice Board.

There will also be an anonymous suggestions box in the main foyer of each House for pupils to pass comments, suggestions and complaints to the HSM.

Prefects

The roles of senior pupils are essential to the smooth running of the House and will involve significant responsibility. Senior pupils are expected to be good role models for younger boarders and at all times uphold the rules of the school and display loyalty to the HSM and House staff. A senior pupil will always be 'on-duty' and should not turn a blind eye to situations which compromise either the House rules or the welfare of younger boarders.