



The Aims and Principles of Boarding – (Senior School / Boarders) ***Under Review***

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I. Policy statement

Woodbridge School is a major co-educational school with boarding facilities of international repute. The ethos of the school is informed by the priority given to high standards of pastoral care and to belief in the education of the whole person as an individual in his or her own right.

Our boarding environment inculcates an appreciation of academia, culture, music, sport and drama among many extra-curricular activities. Through active engagement with each pupil, the School seeks to nurture independence, intellectual curiosity, creativity, a feeling of belonging and a vital sense of achievement that comes through striving and success.

The innocence of childhood is precious and the teenage years a time of change and uncertainty. We strongly believe that setbacks and even failure itself are to be embraced not as weaknesses but as opportunities for growth. We seek to preserve innocence, while nurturing our pupils in their formative years so that they can enter the adult world with confidence, security and good judgment. To this end we are committed to safeguarding in a fully inclusive, positive atmosphere where acceptance rather than tolerance underpin our relationships. Discrimination based upon differences in ethnic background, race, religion, culture, gender or disability are entirely unacceptable at Woodbridge and will not be tolerated in any form.

As part of our Safeguarding Policy, Woodbridge has clear and robust procedures against bullying and abuse, including issues to do with e-safety and cyber-bullying. Wherever concerns arise, the School will act swiftly and appropriately in full accordance with those procedures. The mental and physical health of our pupils is promoted through a close partnership between the Housemaster, Housemistress, Matrons, Tutors and other staff. It is the strength of this pastoral team which provides the necessary foundation for outstanding care though we will not hesitate to involve relevant outside bodies where that would be of benefit to our pupils. Our catering team ensures healthy and balanced food offerings are available at mealtimes and throughout the day, and individual requirements are catered for appropriately. Our PSHE programme includes education on smoking, drugs, sex, alcohol, healthy life choices and emotional wellbeing. With strong pastoral care, together with the role of the Chaplaincy, due emphasis is placed upon the moral, spiritual, social and cultural development of pupils. Boarders of all faiths will be given the support to enable them to follow their religious observances with sensitivity and respect.

It is expected that all boarders will adhere to the School Rules, which are prominently displayed and communicated in person on a regular basis. These rules are implemented more by positive reinforcement than by sanctions. Where sanctions are necessary, we pay proper attention to the important distinction between an individual and his or her actions, with the role of sanctions being to express disapproval with modes of behaviour.

We expect boarders to learn to present themselves, both in dress and conduct, in a manner that indicates a focused, academic and professional approach to all aspects of School life. Through the House Council together with regular House meetings and informal discussion,

the views of boarders are always taken into consideration on all aspects of School and House life and changes made where that would be of benefit to the community.

Further detail on all of the above can be found in the relevant School policies.

2. Compliance and Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be subject to a thorough review process including consideration at the Senior Leadership Team meetings on an annual basis. This will ensure that practice across the Boarding facilities is in line with *this* policy, the Complaints procedure and with current guidance and legislation.