



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

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I. Policy statement

Boarding at Woodbridge will provide pupils of both sexes with the highest level of care and support in their personal lives and in their education in a safe and secure environment at the heart of the school. One of the School's central aims is to help our pupils develop strong character – to grow into happy, confident and resilient young people. Equally, we seek to foster a culture of kindness, where the quality of relationships is valued and where pupils feel cared for and supported. We strive to build a genuine community in which pupils, parents and staff work together for the benefit of one another and the wider world. In doing so, we encourage every young person to pursue excellence, both in their personal development and in the contributions they make to school life.

2. Woodbridge School Values

These values are especially significant for our boarders, as boarding provides so many additional opportunities to uphold and promote them. The School believes that boarding can offer individual pupils many valuable opportunities and experiences –

Character

- Safe independence
- Self-discipline and trust
- Preparation for life at university and in the adult world
- Leadership opportunities

Kindness

- Living and working with peers, older and younger pupils
- A stable and secure environment
- Friendships for life

Community

- Teamwork
- Friendships for life (also sits naturally here if you prefer)
- Living and working with peers, older and younger pupils (likewise fits here)

Excellence

- Extra-curricular opportunities
- Academic support outside the classroom
- Preparation for life at university and in the adult world

The School believes that the success of boarding for each individual pupil depends on strong teamwork between parents, guardians, the pupil and staff. The Head of Boarding and Deputy Head of Boarding give the care of boarders the highest priority and maintain regular contact with parents and guardians on a wide range of matters. They are supported by an excellent team of Tutors, along with expert medical provision.

Boarders also have the same access as day pupils to the full range of pastoral support available during the school day, including academic Tutors, Heads of Year, the Heads of Sixth Form and Careers, and the Well-Being Hub.

Values

The School believes that all boarders should embody our core values:

Character

- Take responsibility for themselves and their belongings
- Act with honesty, self-discipline and courtesy
- Maintain a healthy balance between work, leisure and physical activity

Kindness

- Show consideration and empathy towards others in both the School and boarding community
- Contribute to a supportive and respectful atmosphere

Community

- Respect the code of conduct and the rules, both in and beyond the Boarding House
- Play an active part in creating a positive, inclusive living environment

Excellence

- Strive to uphold high personal standards in behaviour and attitude
- Understand that their rights are protected under the Children's Act, the Human Rights Act and the National Minimum Boarding Standards, and meet the expectations that accompany these standards

The cultural diversity within boarding at Woodbridge is integral in helping the pupils develop tolerance and mutual understanding, skills in community living, and respect for similarities and differences in the attitudes and practices of those from other backgrounds. In line with provision for all the pupils of the School, boarders will be given the opportunity to worship and practise their own religious faiths, will be given support in developing their interests.

and will be encouraged to take a full and active part in every area of School life. Boarders whose first language is not English will be given support in the study of English as an additional language.

Boarders are expected to live and work in accordance with the ethos, aims, and values of the School. Day pupils may use boarding facilities or board on a short-term basis at the discretion of the Head, with arrangements managed in consultation with the Head of Boarding.

3. 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 Senior School Boarding House is in line with this policy, the Complaints procedure and with current guidance and legislation.