

Statement of Boarding Principles and Practice

Canford aims to provide a safe and healthy boarding environment where each pupil is able and encouraged to discover and reach the full potential of their talents. Central to this is the house system where a positive ethos permeates lives and stimulates the development of valuable skills such as leadership and teamwork. Boarding houses are communities where every pupil matters and in which all can develop confidence and self-awareness, learning to live, communicate and support their colleagues in an ambitious and dynamic environment.

There are seven boarding houses, four for boys and three for girls, each with sixty to sixty-five pupils – small enough for each pupil to be and feel well known and large enough to allow a variety of personalities to flourish. Care is taken to provide comfortable and pleasant surroundings.

All houses are run along the same lines, while minor variations reflect the style of each housemaster/mistress, and therefore houses enjoy a separate sense of identity. Within each house, the housemaster/mistress has overall responsibility for the pupils in their care, assisted by four house tutors and a house matron. These provide key avenues of support in a pastoral, academic and disciplinary sense which help in the nurturing of values and attitudes. Senior pupils are selected as Heads of House and Prefects and provide advice and practical help to the house staff.

All meals are taken centrally in the Great Hall which allows wide social interaction between pupils. The school has a collegiate feel, where houses are integral

components, not isolated units. The facilities for enrichment activities beyond the classroom such as sports, art and drama are superb and well used.

The school aims to treat every child in a sensitive and responsible manner. Parental contact with the school is encouraged. Staff are available for communication with parents and pupils as often as the need arises, preferring to deal with issues at an early stage and provide ongoing support as required

Pupils are given advice on sources of support and help, whether this be from other pupils, staff or the on-site Health Centre which is managed day and night by a team of qualified nurses under the direction of three doctors.

The school is welcoming to pupils of all faiths. Cultural diversity is valued and the sense of equal opportunities for all and of healthy respect for those who strive, whatever their abilities, has a strongly unifying effect on the community.

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