

# Statement of Boarding Principles

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## ***STATEMENT OF BOARDING PRINCIPLES***

### ***Policy Statement***

This statement should be read in conjunction with the Aims and Ethos of the School.

### ***Background***

Founded as a full boarding school in 1894, Queenswood has evolved over the years into a boarding and day school where the boarders make up about 50% of the pupil roll. The School sets out to provide its girls with the very best academic programmes, choice of co-curricular activities and opportunities for self-expression and personal development, supported by the highest levels of pastoral care. Boarders and day girls are fully integrated within a House system and share the same pastoral support structure, the only difference being that the day girls go home to sleep at night.

### ***Boarding aims***

Queenswood's boarding aims are to provide, in close communication with the parents and carers, an environment which will safeguard and promote the well-being and appropriate physical, intellectual, emotional, social and behavioural development of a girl, as well as protecting the girls from suffering significant harm or neglect. In particular, boarding focuses on the development of girls' skills to live harmoniously within a community, whatever their individual strengths and weaknesses. The Boarding Houses provide a warm and nurturing environment for the girls.

### ***Boarding organisation***

#### **Boarding Definition**

##### ***Full Boarding***

Full Boarding is when a girl stays for 5 nights or more at School. She usually stays in at weekends,

although is allowed out at the weekends if invited by friends or family and with the appropriate parental permissions. Many girls board 7 nights a week (except during the Stamp Home weekends and the two Summer Term Exeat weekends).

### *Flexi Weekly Boarding*

Weekly Boarding is up to 5 nights a week in school. This can be either Monday night to Friday night or Sunday night to Thursday night. If a weekly boarder stays for more than 5 nights she will be charged the occasional rate for the extra night(s).

### *Flexi Boarding*

Pupils may board, 1, 2, 3 nights on a Flexi Boarding package. Where possible boarders staying 1 or 2 nights will be given the same bed but this cannot be guaranteed.

### *Occasional Boarding (Day Girls)*

All Day Girls are welcome to stay the night in the boarding houses, if beds are available. There is a nightly charge for occasional boarding. Requests for occasional boarding nights should be directed to the Housemistress/Houseparent, at least 24 hours in advance. When families choose this option, it is subject to the availability of beds and girls cannot expect to have their own permanent bed, desk or space.

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## **Boarding House System**

The School comprises three sections: Lower School Years 7 and 8; Middle School Year 9, 10 and 11; and Sixth Form Years 12 and 13. The Boarding House system supports this structure as follows:

- Stamp House is for girls in Years 7 and 8, providing integrated accommodation and facilities for both boarders and day girls. This is a separate standalone House for Lower School.
- Mymwood and Swanwick are found on the first, second and third floors of the Middle School boarding building and is for all Full and Flexi Boarders in Years 9, 10, Year 11 Full and Weekly boarders and Full Boarders in Y12-13.
- The Y11 Flexis (1-3) & all 12-13 Flexi boarders are housed in Trew House.

Whilst the Lower Sixth boarders tend to rotate rooms every term, the Upper Sixth girls stay in the same room for the year. Boarders in Stamp and the Middle School Houses rotate bedrooms every term.

## ***Boarding Facilities***

Younger boarders (Years 7-10) are accommodated in multiple-bed rooms which reduce in the number of beds per room as a girl moves up the School. Year 11 have single study bedrooms. Lower Sixth girls are accommodated in mostly single or double rooms and all Upper Sixth girls are accommodated in single rooms. Accommodation is maintained to the highest possible standards and a rolling redecoration and refurbishment programme is in place.

All boarding Houses have social facilities, containing TVs and DVD players, as well as facilities for making snacks and hot drinks. The Sixth Form are provided with full kitchen facilities to enable

them to prepare and cook complete evening meals, should they so choose.

### ***Pastoral Care***


The Deputy Head Pastoral and the Assistant Head (Boarding) are responsible for the provision of all pastoral care within the School. Stamp House is led by a Housemistress and supported by a Boarding Assistant. Mymwood is led by a Housemistress and supported by a Lead Boarding Assistant and 3 Boarding Assistants. House Tutors visit Stamp and Mymwood once per weekday Monday – Thursday. Swanwick is led by a Housemistress and supported by a Boarding Assistant. Trew is led by a Housemistress and is supported by a Boarding Assistant and three House tutors who visit once during the week.

The Head of Year and Tutors work very closely with the Housemistresses to ensure the provision of comprehensive care for the girls.

### ***Welfare Support***

The School's Medical Centre provides nursing and counselling support for all boarders and the School has access to a range of outside agencies should the need arise. Counselling is available at set times through appointment with the School Counsellor. The boarders can also contact the School Chaplain. The school holds a GP surgery once a week during term time. There is also an Independent Listener, whom the boarders can contact should they wish to speak to someone outside the school.

### ***Other related school policies and procedures***

- Aims and Ethos
- Queenswood Code of Conduct
- Organisational Boarding Structure Chart  Q boarding