

Queenswood



Boarding: Statement of Boarding Principles and Practice

<i>Issued by</i>	Deputy Head Pastoral
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BOARDING: STATEMENT OF BOARDING PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

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, 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 girl 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. Girls who board 3 nights or more have their own bed, their own desk (Year 9 and above) and space all through the week. Girls are free to sleep at home Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights or they might choose to stay at school for all or some of those three nights. There are numerous weekend activities and trips for girls to enjoy. All girls are warmly invited to join in with the weekend activity programme. Many girls board 7 nights a week (except during the two Summer Term Exeat weekends).

Flexi Boarding

Girls may board, 1, 2, 3 or 4 nights on a Flexi Boarding package. Where possible girls staying 1 or 2 nights will be given the same bed but this cannot be guaranteed.

Sleepovers (Day Girls)

All Day Girls are welcome to sleep over, if beds are available. There is a nightly charge for sleepovers, though three free nights per term are offered. Requests for sleepovers 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. Space allowing, girls may stay regularly for a maximum of three nights per week.

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.
- Centre is found on the first and second floors of the Middle School boarding building and is for all girls in Years 9, 10 and 11. There is lots of social space for all girls as well as all boarding accommodation for Years 9 – 11.
- Boarders in Stamp and the Middle School Houses rotate bedrooms every term.
- The Sixth Form comprises of approximately 75 boarders and 50 day girls. The Lower Sixth boarders are housed in Trew House. The Upper Sixth boarders all have single study bedrooms in Senior. All Sixth Form day girls have shared study rooms in Bellman, the Sixth Form Centre. Whilst the Lower Sixth boarders tend to rotate rooms every term, the Upper Sixth girls stay in the same room for the year.

Boarding Facilities

Younger boarders are accommodated in multiple-bed rooms which reduce in the number of beds per room as a girl moves up the School. 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 is responsible for the provision of all pastoral care within the School. Stamp House is led by a Housemistress and supported by two Boarding Assistants whilst the Middle School House (Centre) is led by two Housemistresses and supported by three Boarding Assistants. The Head of Boarding is also involved in the running of Centre but lives on site, rather than in the Boarding House. House Tutors visit Stamp once per weekday Monday – Thursday and House Tutors visit Centre Monday – Thursday too. In the Sixth Form, the Head of Sixth Form is resident in Belling. Each Sixth Form House is led by a Houseparent with a Boarding Assistant for support.

The Head of Year and Tutors work very closely with the Housemistresses and Houseparents 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. Nursing support is available 24 hours a day during term time and counselling is available at set times through appointment. There is also an Independent Listener that the girls can contact. The school holds a GP surgery twice weekly during term time.

Other related school policies and procedures

- Aims and Ethos
- Pastoral Care Policy
- Queenswood Code of Conduct