



BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF BOARDING PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

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To: Boarding Houseparents and Assistant Houseparents
Common Room Staff

September 2024

BROMSGROVE PREPARATORY BOARDING: PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

The following principles and aims for our boarders and boarding community should be read in conjunction with the School Mission Statement. We seek to develop core values of humility and confidence, compassion and ambition, respect and curiosity, and tolerance and vision. Page House refers to pupils and staff who reside in Main Page and Conway Page.

PRINCIPLES OF BOARDING

1. The basis of boarding life should be co-operation; the qualities of kindness, tolerance, trust and unselfishness are fostered in pupils and are evident throughout the boarding house and all its occupants.
2. The concept of the whole development of each boarder is fundamental to the ethos of the School.
3. All boarders should be able to thrive morally, spiritually, culturally and socially.
4. Every boarder should have the opportunity to develop their talents whether academic, sporting or co-curricular.
5. All boarders have the right to be treated as an individual and to be respected by staff and other pupils.
6. All boarders should be given an awareness of their wider responsibilities to the boarding community.
7. Every boarder has the right to work, play and relax free from abuse, discrimination, intimidation, harassment, teasing and bullying.
8. Relations between boarders and their parents are extremely important. Boarders should have the opportunity to communicate with their parents at all reasonable times.
9. All boarders know who to turn to when in difficulty.
10. The right to privacy is acknowledged as a fundamental human right.
11. Concerns about health and safety (especially fire) are seriously respected by all staff and boarders.

Aims of Boarding

The School aims to provide:

- excellent pastoral care
- excellent accommodation that is comfortable and suited to the needs of boarding, according to age and maturity, and which provides reasonable and appropriate levels of privacy
- excellent study, leisure and recreational facilities
- a safe and healthy environment, free from dangers and hazards.

In addition, we believe that boarding greatly enhances the overall development of the pupil. Therefore, the School also aims:

- to create a family atmosphere in Page House where pupils are encouraged and supported so that they may flourish academically, personally and socially

- to develop the whole person and to prepare a pupil for their future life in Senior School
- to produce an open and trusting atmosphere in which each boarder feels able to approach a member of staff or another boarder confident that they will be treated and respected as an individual
- to create a supportive atmosphere of co-operation, tolerance, kindness and trust in which teasing, harassment and bullying will find difficulty in developing
- to provide supervised prep sessions so that a boarder may find it easy to work
- to provide a range of age-appropriate co-curricular opportunities that will assist in the cultural, social and personal development of each boarder
- to provide weekend activities that boarders enjoy
- to develop a sense of responsibility in each boarder
- to provide opportunities for leadership and teamwork
- to create an atmosphere where boarders and staff can relax together and enjoy the benefits of community life
- to introduce new boarders to the community with kindness and sensitivity and to offer every possible support and encouragement.

BOARDING IN PRACTICE

There are two boarding Houses in Bromsgrove Preparatory School:

Page House	Mixed (Y3 – Y8)
Conway Page	Boys or Girls (Y6 – Y8)

Each boarding House is run by resident Houseparents (who act *in loco parentis*). The overall running of boarding within the two sites is supported by a team of staff including Assistant Houseparents, a Residential Matron, Housemothers and Boarding Tutors.

All staff new to Bromsgrove follow a programme of induction and training, co-ordinated by the Deputy Head (Teaching). Boarding staff induction is led primarily by the relevant Houseparent, with help from the other colleagues. The Headmaster of the Preparatory School has overall responsibility for boarding in the Preparatory School, supported by the Deputy Head, and liaises with the Boarding Governor.

Boarding Houses have good facilities and social areas with Wi-Fi provision for computer access. Younger pupils are accommodated in dormitories of between three and six children, in which they have their own personal space, including storage facilities. Many of our Year 8 pupils have twin study bedrooms, often with *en suite* bathroom facilities.

Boarders may take advantage of the School's excellent sports facilities as well as the Routh Music School at various times in the evenings and at weekends. The overarching aim is to make boarding feel like a home-from-home environment both in terms of access to opportunities and being surrounded by adults who genuinely care for the wellbeing of the children.

We recognise the importance of trying to work in partnership with parents, communicating regularly and, in these days of social media and live streaming, sometimes spontaneously. Boarding pupils are of course encouraged to keep in touch with home as well through their chosen media. Aside from the House staff, boarders have many people on hand to look after them should they need to turn to somebody: perhaps a Monitor in House, their form tutor or Head of Year, a trusted subject teacher, the Chaplain, Senior Management staff; a member of staff in the Boarders' Clinic and Wellbeing Hub or even, if required, a School counsellor/youth support worker or an independent listener. School and adolescent pressures will inevitably cause the odd challenge, but there will always be someone to support and encourage a boarding pupil at Bromsgrove.



Mr M J Marie
Headmaster

Cc: School Website