



Bosworth
Independent
School

Statement of Boarding Principles and Practice

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Lead for Review	Head of Boarding

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Introduction

Bosworth School believes in the education of the whole person and the importance of boarding as part of this process. Citizenship and social responsibility are important, if not essential, elements in a boarding environment, as are learning to live with and caring for others.

Boarding at Bosworth plays a significant role in the welfare, safety and enrichment of our students' lives. The great majority of boarders are from overseas and are first time visitors to the UK. Students are given the space to be individuals, and to develop new ideas, whilst respecting cultural differences and opinions across the student body.

Boarding life supports the three core values of the School, Encouragement, Creativity and Excellence, and gives students the confidence and the secure home environment for them to strive academically.

Statement of Boarding Principles and Practice

Most students recognise the need to develop life skills quickly whilst they are away from parents and the support mechanisms they have at home. Cultural, environmental, developmental, social and language challenges are certainties for most Bosworth students. The boarding programme aims to help and guide students to be aware of these challenges and to learn how to adapt and thrive through communication, support and exposure to greater responsibility as they progress through School.

The principles on which boarding is based at Bosworth School are:

- 1) Mutual respect for all boarders.
- 2) The right to be able to work, play and relax free from abuse, intimidation, harassment, teasing or bullying.
- 3) Equality of opportunities for all boarders, regardless of ethnicity, culture, gender, sexual orientation or disability.
- 4) The right to extend their intellectual growth in an atmosphere of positive encouragement and in conditions that are conducive to work.
- 5) Despite the often great distance separating boarders from their families, links with parents are seen as an essential and indispensable part of the support and development of boarders in the School.

Aims:

- 1) To make the Houses happy places to live, to have fun in our leisure time and to offer as many different activities as possible to interest both the boys and girls.
- 2) To encourage good working practices and ensure that each boarder gains the best all round education possible.
- 3) To make each boarder feel individually valued and for all to feel a part of the House.
- 4) To allow the boarders a democratic voice.
- 5) To help the boarders learn about the town of Northampton and become part of its community.
- 6) To help the boarders prepare for life beyond school, to develop leadership qualities, cultural awareness and recognise and nurture other qualities in individual pupils.

Boarding Fundamentals

- We accommodate both male and female students aged between 12 and 19 with the majority being between 16 and 18 years old.
- The number of boarding students on roll is approximately 150.
- Usually, 30+ nationalities are represented each year.
- Admissions plan recruitment targets to ensure no single nationality is significantly over-represented.
- There are 5 fully-supervised boarding houses, ranging from 18 – 46 beds. There are houses for younger students and for older students.
- All boarding and teaching buildings are owned by the School. Newton Building is the main academic building and Bosworth Hall the main social building.
- Bedrooms are either single or twin rooms. Limetrees has 30 ensuite rooms.
- All boarding accommodation stays open during the 3 half term holidays at no extra cost. At Easter, accommodation can be kept open for students who wish to remain in boarding.
- Activity programmes are organised for the 3 half term holidays and Easter.

Staffing and Pastoral care

- There is a full-time Head of Boarding and 2 Full time Assistant Heads of Boarding who live on the School site and are on call 24/7.
- Boarding houses are fully supervised in the evening and at weekends, with House Parents sleeping in overnight. Houses open at 15:45 after School.
- There is always a Senior Leader on-call overnight to support boarding staff.
- All students are allocated to a Personal Tutor, to facilitate good communication between academic and boarding teams.
- There is a School Nurse (term time only) who can access specialist support for students from Counsellors and Psychologists in addition to GPs/dentists etc. There is also a School Counsellor who works for the School.
- All cleaners are employed directly by Bosworth School, and as such are trained to report potential safeguarding and health & safety concerns directly.
- We have our own Operations team, providing 24/7 emergency cover.
- The Catering team provide all meals and offer a variety of main meal choices each day. Kitchen facilities are also available in each boarding house for student use. There are restrictions on boarders ordering takeaway food. This is allowed a maximum of three times a week only.

The Boarding Team organise regular and wide-ranging programme of optional evening and weekend trips and activities, both educational and social, and boarders are also able to attend Co-Curricular Activities (CCAs) straight after school, Monday to Friday.

General

- **Cleaning:** all boarders' bedrooms are cleaned and vacuumed, and the bed linen changed, weekly. There are student laundry facilities in all Boarding Houses for students to wash their own clothes.
- **Religion:** as a provider of education and pastoral support to students from a wide variety of different cultural backgrounds, the School commits to a policy of equal opportunities regarding religious observance, and it treats requests for absence on the occasion of religious festivals (e.g. Diwali, Ramadan, Chinese New Year) or to follow a regular pattern of worship (e.g. Friday prayers for Muslim students) sympathetically. Any religious or cultural needs, which have an impact on accommodation or diet, are catered for. A Prayer Room is provided at Bosworth Hall.
- **Exeats:** must be agreed by the Assistant Head of Boarding after receiving parental approval. Authorisation will not be given if there are safeguarding concerns, boarding disciplinary issues, poor classroom attendance or if there is evidence of lack of effort in terms of academic work.
- **Boarding staff** are available 24/7 for students' requests, queries or problems regarding any aspect of boarding life. House Parents will deal with any problems outside office hours, and senior boarding staff are contactable 24 hours a day if necessary. Senior Leadership are on call for emergencies at weekends.
- **Boarding rules:** we aim to limit reliance upon too many rules and prefer to allow reasonable freedom to students (with the exception of smoking, alcohol and drug use as detailed below). There are strict curfew times in place. Students must sign in and out of the boarding accommodation and remain contactable always. A separate Boarding House Rules poster is displayed in boarding houses. All boarding staff can record disciplinary concerns. Consequences may include loss of free time, extra study hall sessions, earlier curfews, suspension and expulsion for the most serious offences.
- **Parental communication:** students can contact parents, guardians etc. in a variety of ways. In urgent cases, students can use office telephones to make calls. All buildings have Wi-Fi access, which is time-limited in boarding houses and monitored remotely to control access. Each student has their own School e-mail address.
- **Smoking, alcohol and drugs:** smoking is not allowed at any time. Alcohol is not permitted, and students must never be under the influence of alcohol. Any student found in possession of, or proved to be under the influence of, an illegal substance must expect to be expelled. The School reserves the right to use breathalysers and other drug tests.

Personal Development Within Boarding

- We organise an induction programme (usually a week in length) immediately prior to the start of term, for orientation, testing and acclimatisation purposes. This also includes individual discussions with the Nurse to ascertain any health issues or medication concerns, meeting key staff, presentations on important aspects of School life and, we hope, forming friendships.
- House Parents carry out personal induction into simple routines such as how to contact School in an emergency, how to use washing machines, personal organisation and time keeping, staying away from potentially unsafe areas, fire safety, door codes, Boarding House Rules, exeat etc.
- Initial room allocation is personally handled by the Assistant Head of Boarding. Every effort is made to ensure students of similar ages and on similar courses are housed together, with as wide a mix of nationalities as possible. With younger students in shared rooms, we operate a policy of mixing nationalities, unless parents request otherwise, to help with integration and language development.
- It is important not to dictate someone's gender when making accommodation arrangements. Where possible boarders are empowered to make a choice regarding which gender section of boarding accommodation to reside in. Each situation is managed with care as the school recognises that each individual is at a different point in their personal journey through any transition process, and of a different age and sexual maturity. In addition, the layout of the boarding house will need to be considered. A solution should be agreed with the individual boarder and their parents, dependent on their age.
- Students are expected to keep their rooms tidy, as befits a homely environment, and this is monitored daily by House Parents.
- During the School day, between 0800 and 1545, students are not allowed to access the boarding houses, so they have to take everything they are going to need for the day with them.
- The boarders are encouraged to suggest ways to improve boarding life. This covers boarding accommodation, provision of food and drink, links with the community, activities and free time. There is a Boarding Committee and there are opportunities for boarders to act as School Prefects at parents' evenings, open days, and in boarding.
- When students plan to travel home or to a host, they must discuss this with Boarding House staff. We have a strict screening process for individuals to be approved as hosts for our students. This is to ensure that we are taking every precaution to safeguard our students when they wish to stay at a location outside of our boarding houses, and to ensure that they are being cared for in a safe environment by an individual who meets our criteria.
- Welfare Concerns are raised as required (by any member of staff) to initially identify where a student might need to improve aspects of their behaviour, e.g. their diet, exercise, integration with others, use of free time, over-use of electronic devices etc.
- Most students participate in weekly Co-Curricular Activities after School, and many attend sports fixtures and organised boarding trips and activities in the evenings, at weekends and during the holidays.
- Students have the option of moving to the senior house during their final year of study, subject to School and parental approval, to help prepare them for the increased independence and responsibility of university life. This exposes them to taking greater responsibility for health and safety, ordering provisions, dealing with in-house conflict, routine housekeeping tasks and reporting maintenance issues etc.