

Boarding Policy and Statement of Boarding Principles 2023-2024

Date: September 2023

Review Date: **September 2024**

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Boarding Policy and Statement of Boarding Principles

Aim

1. The aim of this policy is to provide an overview of the arrangements for boarding at Seaford College. More detailed information on specific subjects is available in other policy related documents.

Overview

2. Seaford College is an independent coeducational school for day and boarding pupils. It offers boarding on a number of different formats including flexi boarding, weekly boarding and full boarding.
3. Seaford College has six boarding houses, Mansion, Prep School, Walled Garden West, Walled Garden East, Heden Hall and Heden Court:
 - a. Mansion is a girls' boarding house for pupils in Years 9-13.
 - b. Prep school boarders reside in the Prep school.
 - c. Walled Garden West and Walled Garden East are boys' boarding houses for pupils in Years 9-12.
 - d. Heden Hall is a boys' boarding house for pupils in Year 13.
 - e. Heden Court is a girls' boarding House for pupils in Year 13.

Each boarding house has a resident Housemaster or Houseparent, helped by a number of Assistants or Tutors. Some of these Assistants are resident. For an up to date list of staff involved with boarding please see the Calendar.

There is always a member of staff resident in each boarding house overnight during term time. Pupils know who this person is and how to summon them if they need help.

Statement of Boarding Principles

4. At Seaford College, the boarding community is united in promoting respect and this is reflected in our statement of boarding principles.

Respect at Seaford means:

- Respect for yourself
- Respect for others
- Respect for the environment we live in.

What does this mean in practice and how do we promote 'respect'?

Self	Others	Environment
Be prepared Be honest Always do your best Challenge yourself Keep fit and eat well	Use kind words and actions Include others where possible Learn and let others learn Compromise Be tolerant	Report problems Put rubbish in bins Recycle where possible Tidy up after yourself Leave communal areas tidier than you find them

Boarding House Ethos

5. The boarding houses are designed to operate on the principle of an extended family. Older pupils are given responsibility for some of the supervision of younger pupils, and for other various tasks within the house, but this is monitored closely. The Houseparents and their team are expected to, and do, get to know their pupils and provide the support, guidance and encouragement that they need from time to time.

Pupil Voice

6. The pupils in each house meet regularly and are encouraged to feedback to their Houseparents and issues, concerns or positive feedback that they might have about boarding and the school in more general terms.
House prefects also voice issues and concerns in regular House meetings with Houseparents and act as a go-between for pupils and staff in this respect.
A Boarders Council meets each half of term, chaired by the Director of Boarding.

Child Welfare and Protection

7. Seaford College's aim is to provide the very best care for the pupils entrusted to us. We aim to ensure that every pupil is happy at school and feels that they have a productive part to play in the boarding house and the school.
8. All staff at the school are given regular training in Safeguarding matters. All pupils are encouraged to speak to a member of the house team, a member of the Pastoral Team (in the Pink House), a member of the Senior Management Team, a member of the Medical Centre Team or any member of staff if they have a problem or become aware of another pupil who has a problem.

9. The College operates its own Medical Centre, with a trained sister on either on duty or on call at all times. Boarders are able to see the School Doctor by arrangement and have access to local medical and dental facilities.
10. Pupils with emotional problems are carefully monitored and, when necessary, are referred to our College Counsellor. They will be carefully assessed and where necessary will be referred to our School Doctor who can refer them to the local Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) office.
11. Relevant phone numbers for Child Line, the NSPCC, our Independent Listener and the Director of Children's Rights are displayed prominently in our boarding houses.

House Sanctions and Rewards

12. As far as possible, the Houseparents and their team act *in loco parentis* and, like all good parents, provide a caring, supportive environment for the children in their care. Each house has its own system of rewards and sanctions working within the College's broader system, with the emphasis on encouragement and reward rather than punishment.
13. The College has an active and effective Anti-Bullying Programme and house teams are constantly vigilant for any form of harassment or bullying. Any cases will be dealt with according to the College Anti-Bullying Policy.

Communication

14. Seaford College is a 'home from home' for our boarding pupils and therefore considerable care is taken to ensure that:
 - a. Houseparents and their teams get to know pupils and, as far as possible, their parents as quickly as possible.
 - b. Parents receive regular updates on their child's progress (from teachers, tutors, Houseparents etc)
 - c. Parents are informed of any problems that their child might be having and encouraged to work with the school to resolve these issues.
 - d. Parents inform house staff if they become aware of any problems with their child.

Regulatory Compliance

15. Seaford College works hard to ensure that it meets all of the regulatory requirements set out in the National Minimum Standards and other relevant legislation. The school conducts its own internal audits to ensure compliance and also routinely brings in outside consultants in order to ensure that all areas comply with the latest requirements for boarding schools.
16. Regular checks are made to ensure that appropriate Health and Safety standards are met in all aspects of College life.

17. The College is subject to regular inspection by the Independent Schools Inspectorate to ensure that all regulatory requirements are met or exceeded.

Management and Administration

18. Houseparents are ultimately responsible to the Headmaster for the smooth and effective running of their boarding house. In practice they report directly through the Director of Boarding to the Deputy Head.
19. Regular Houseparents meetings are chaired by the Director of Boarding and are used for the dissemination of information and discussions about topical issues or pupils who are causing particular concern.