

# **Statement of Boarding Principles and Practice**

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**Brooke House College**

2024/25 Version

### **Statement of Boarding Principles and Practice**

Brooke House College aims to provide a friendly, happy, and enterprising environment where pupils can learn to live together in order to achieve success in all aspects of their school careers. Within the boarding houses, we look to engender among pupils team spirit, tolerance, independence, respect for themselves and others as well as gaining confidence to succeed at university and in the workplace.

The boarding houses form the backbone of our community and are the key drivers in delivering pastoral care to the pupils. Leading each house is a resident tutor, who is the first port-of-call for all pupils seeking help and advice. The resident tutors report to the Head of Boarding who leads the team and chairs the residential staff meetings. Each meeting considers safeguarding, admissions, medical matters, academic matters, incident reports and other 'routine' items. The Head of Boarding ensures consistency of care, rules/guidelines, and adherence to the National Minimum Standards for boarding. Along with residential tutors, the pupils are supported by the college's medical staff, the independent listener, and the rest of the staff team both domestic and academic.

The houses are the home-from-home for each pupil and as such they are caring and compassionate places. Life skills such as accepting community values, shared living and treating each other with respect and listening to all points of view are developed within the houses. The houses are also ably supported by a full and comprehensive RSHE programme.

Each boarding house occupies its own building and generates a unique character driven by each resident tutor and the pupils within it. Houses organise evening and weekend events and compete strongly in inter-house events. The 'student voice' is listened to keenly with each house having a 'house council'. The council meets to discuss the many matters raised by the pupils. Minutes of each house council meeting are sent to the Principal so that matters raised can be discussed in senior leadership team meetings and with the Directors.

The whole pastoral system is formally supervised and monitored by the Designated Safeguard Lead DSL and the Director with the safeguarding brief. The residential staff are also all trained first aiders and trained to deliver certain medicines. Regular audits are carried out on the facilities as a part of a routine maintenance process and so that each house is compliant with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations and the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools under which the college is inspected.

We no longer have dormitories; rather the college has single or double studies. Many of the studies have ensuite toilet and bath/shower facilities. Those that do not have ensuite bathrooms have good communal facilities. All houses have common room areas, TV facilities, laundry facilities, and kitchenettes and every house is fully wi-fi enabled.

#### **Equal Opportunities for Boarders – statement of intent**

In all of the opportunities that the College offers to boarders and in all aspect of their care, the College embraces diversity and exhibits tolerance. It does not discriminate against boarders by reason of any of the protected characteristics set out in Equality Act 2010 or by reason of boarders' ability in any area of the curriculum. Quite to the contrary, each boarder's personal characteristics

are considered so that individual care is sensitive to each boarder’s needs. However, and in accordance with the exclusions laid down in Part 6 of the 2010 Act, the College may make alternative arrangements for boarders according to their age. Examples of such alternative arrangements might be to allow certain privileges to older pupils for which younger pupils are not eligible, or to organise an excursion for one age group but not for another. These practices are not illegal discrimination but are consistent with common sense and good practice educational provision.

### Schedule of Updates

<b>Authorised by</b>	resolution of the Board of Directors
<b>Signed</b> .....	
Director	
<b>Date</b>	August 2024

Date document updated	Document updated by	Summary update/comments	Location of saved file
July 2017	MCO		Dropbox – SMT – Policies Final
July 2019	MCO		Dropbox – SMT – Policies 2021-2022
October 2022	IMS	Changes to titles	MS TEAMS SLT Policies 2022-2023
August 2023	IMS	Updated job titles	MS Teams SLT Policies 2023-2024
August 2024	IMS		MS Teams SLT Policies 2024-2025

### Schedule of Review

Date of document review	Reviewed by	Scheduled date of next review
July 2017	MCO	July 2018
July 2018	MCO	July 2020

July 2020	MCO	July 2021
July 2021	MCO	July 2022
October 2022	IMS	July 2023
July 2023	IMS	July 2024
Aug 2024	IMS	July 2025