

## **Statement of boarding principles and practice**

St John's aims to bring together all the advantages of a boarding and day school on one site. The School strongly believes in a values-based education and boarding enhances this educational experience for all pupils through the formation of a close-knit and vibrant community. It reinforces a number of the key values which St John's regards as important preparation for a pupil's life beyond school; for example, providing excellent opportunities for pupils to grow in kindness, inclusivity and resilience whilst making positive contributions to their community and enjoying the School environment.

The School aims to offer a high standard of boarding facilities and residential care. There is a range of activities and facilities available after the formal school day ends and pupils have choice about how they spend their time. Many staff are involved in the provision of boarding.

The majority of boarders at St John's are regular flexi-boarders, boarding for one, two or three nights each week; others are weekly boarders, returning home on a Friday evening. However, all pupils are offered the opportunity to board on an ad-hoc basis.

### **The aims of boarding at St John's**

1. To embed the values of St John's School as a creative, ambitious and inclusive learning community where young people thrive and achieve.
2. To support the development of the whole person in independence, resilience and character and to equip all pupils with key skills in preparation for future life.
3. To engender an open and trusting environment with an atmosphere of cooperation, tolerance and kindness in which all members feel able to approach any other member of the community (staff or pupil) confident that they will be treated with respect and courtesy.
4. To promote a positive and diverse culture in which every individual (pupil and staff) is valued, accepted, supported and encouraged to fulfil their potential.
5. To provide a range of opportunities and activities, appropriate to age and maturity that will help in the cultural, social and personal development of each pupil.
6. To create an atmosphere where pupils are able to relax, have fun and enjoy community life.

### **The organisation and facilities of boarding at St John's**

- Lower School (Lower Third and Upper Third) boarding at St John's is in one mixed house. Boarders spend the evening together but are separated by gender overnight.
- Senior pupils (Fourth Form to Upper Sixth) board in one of four houses. East and West (boys) or Gloucester and South (girls).
- Each house is supported by its own staff team although there is close collaboration between houses to ensure consistency of approach and experience.
- Each house has accommodation that is comfortable and suited to the needs of boarding, according to age and maturity, and which provides reasonable levels of privacy.
- The School ensures that each pupil's environment is safe and healthy, free from dangers and hazards, and implements a programme of risk assessment, development and improvement to maintain its high standards.
- Pupils have freedom to choose how to use their time after the end of the School day with access to a range of facilities such as the swimming pool, sports hall, gym and boarding house facilities.

### **Welfare support and supervision of boarders at St John's**

Boarders in each house are supported by a wide range of adults to ensure that they are well looked after. There are a large number of staff resident on site at school and accessible to pupils at all times. These include, but are not limited to:

- Housemasters and Housemistresses
- Assistant Housemasters and Housemistresses
- Boarding Tutors
- Assistant Head (Boarding and Pastoral)
- Senior Deputy Head
- The Head

Pupils have a choice of staff to whom they can turn for guidance including a Counsellor and a Pupil Mental Health Lead. They also have access to the independent listener, the Office of the Children's Commissioner and Childline (amongst others) in addition to prefects and their peers.

*Last reviewed: Nov 2022*

*Reviewed by: BRP*

*(Extract from Boarding Staff Handbook taken January 2023)*

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