



ST. EDWARD'S OXFORD

BOARDING PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

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We aim to provide a high-quality boarding environment which promotes the welfare of each individual and encourages his or her all round development. We want each of our pupils to be fulfilled and happy; at the minimum this requires that they must feel secure, and that they are properly looked after by well qualified and experienced people who are well disposed to children.

A boarding education not only provides a number of opportunities for the full development of individuals but is also a fertile field for the transmission of values. It brings with it the challenges of communal living. So, we aim to recognise the need for privacy, and we aim to counter the possibilities of unkindness and the abuse of power.

Boarders are not discriminated against on the basis of cultural or linguistic background, special educational need, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, or academic or sporting ability. Our aim is to embrace diversity and to demonstrate tolerance.

The boarding principles are aligned with our School's values:

Integrity: the value of honesty to ourselves and to each other

- we seek to earn and to deserve the trust of others, by acting rightly and justly;
- we take responsibility for our words and actions;
- we acknowledge our mistakes, and we learn from them.

Kindness: the value of love

- we feel and show compassion for others, always listening and seeking always to understand;
- we value, respect and include others without regard for differences;
- we treat others as we would have them treat us.

Courage: truthfulness to our values at the testing point

- we stand up for what we believe to be right, speaking up for ourselves and for others;
- we seek to bring out the best in others;
- we persevere with resilience, with forgiveness and with patience.

More generally, adherence to the school values has strong links to effective learning and is vital not just for a well-ordered community but for the development of character.

Boarding Principles and Practice

In September 2016 pupils, in consultation with Boarding staff and with the pupils in their respective Houses, decided on the following six core principles:

Community

We believe everyone should feel safe, supported, and secure in their boarding house. Pupils should feel comfortable speaking to anyone in House and should go out of their way to help those around them. Each House aims to create an excellent house spirit with a positive and supportive relationship between the year groups. We aim to be inclusive and to always be open to other people (whatever year or friendship group they are in).

Pride

We take pride in being a part of our School and House and creating a sense of ownership in everything we do - be that academically or in co-curricular activities. Taking pride in our House includes healthy competition and celebrating our successes.

Respect

We respect the School and the House's values, and we respect the School's and the House's property. We respect each other, but we recognise that respect is earned not enforced. We aim to respect our peers in different year-groups. We aim to be patient, understanding and kind to all members of the school community. We promote equality and tolerance; we support difference and appreciate the value of diversity.

A Speak Up Culture

We believe it is vital that everybody feels they can and should talk to someone about something that concerns them. In this instance we want everybody to have someone to turn to, someone who will listen. We aim for positive 'bystander intervention': if something does not seem right, we will say or do something.

Happiness and Fun

We aim to uphold a positive mind-set and to have a smile on our faces. We know that this is not always easy but we endeavour to make our school a fun environment in which to live and learn.

Teamwork and Encouragement

We aim to work collaboratively. We aim to trust one another, to show loyalty and to support each other. If 'the team' is strong then we can achieve the best outcomes for everyone.

Practice

The School also acknowledges that turning principles successfully into practice requires, among other things:

- Clear communication of the principles to and by those with boarding responsibilities.
- Acceptance and adoption of these principles by all members of our community.
- The design and implementation of appropriate policies and processes in all areas of pupil welfare.
- Monitoring of the effectiveness of policies and processes, measurement and evaluation of boarding standards.
- The sharing and dissemination of good practice.