

Boarding Principles and Practice

This policy has been written in line with the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools 2022, as follows:

Part A: Governance Leadership and Management

Aim: The leadership, management and governance of the school enables a culture to thrive which is child-centred, safeguards children's wellbeing and is ambitious for the progress of every child. Monitoring and accountability is strong and adds value.

Standard 1 – Statement of boarding principles and practice

1.1 A suitable statement of the school's boarding principles and practice is available to parents, carers, and staff, is known to and understood by boarders, and is seen to work well in practice.

Introduction

Queen Margaret's encourages girls to adopt the highest moral standards, to be spiritually, socially, culturally aware and to respect the aims and ethos of the School. We wish to develop mutual trust, honesty and common courtesy. We believe that strong relationships, good manners and a secure environment play a crucial part in the development of thoughtful and independent girls, who are motivated to become life-long learners. In addition we help girls to develop qualities of team-work and leadership through teams, projects and activities.

Equality

Everyone has the right to feel secure and to be treated with respect, particularly the vulnerable. Queen Margaret's is strongly committed to promoting equality of opportunity for all regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, physical disability or learning difficulty.

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The school's values are reflected in everything we do and how we conduct ourselves, around school, within our Boarding Houses and when we represent the school on school trips and visits. These values are:

- Commitment and Excellence
- Honesty and openness
- Bravery and Resilience
- Kindness, Respect and Tolerance
- Friendship, Fairness and Fun

We strive to live these values through the following philosophy for pastoral care at Queen Margaret's is to:

- Ensure a secure and welcoming environment where each girl will feel safe and valued
- Provide for each girl as an individual to ensure her needs are met
- Promote strong and supportive relationships between girls of all ages
- Develop mutual trust, communication and support between girls and staff
- Reward and encourage good behaviour with praise and recognition

- Manage inappropriate behaviour with the use of fair and effective sanctions
- Develop qualities of team-work and leadership by providing positions of responsibility
- Encouraging initiative by including girls on committees and in decision making
- Provide enriching and enjoyable evening and weekend activities which are popular and fun for all
- Enable each girl to fulfil her potential in a confident and courageous way
- Encourage collective responsibility in the best interests of the whole community
- Maintain excellent contact with parents and external agencies as appropriate
- Support and develop the work of House Staff, Senior Tutors and Tutors as they work with girls
- Address safeguarding matters promptly and responsibly should they arise

Tania Davidson

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Review Due: September 2024