

BOARDING PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE STATEMENT

Date	Review Date	Contact
01.02.19	01.02.20	Head of School & Education

Atmosphere

Newbury Hall boarders enjoy a home-from-home atmosphere that is safe, happy and purposeful. Our pastoral care encourages students to feel that they are part of an extended, supportive family resulting in strong relationships and a sense of responsibility for both our shared and individual ambitions.

Induction and guidance

Approachable boarding staff and a welcoming boarding environment allow students to make friends easily. Boarders may form friendships for life, but also develop their own identities and self-reliance.

Induction is a process. We adopt a sensitive approach to culture shock a careful and supported induction including a detailed presentation on school life and overview of the first few days, orientation tours of the school and town, how the residence operates, a simplified list of rules, etc and provide key written information in a student handbook, timetable, etc. New students settle in quickly.

Community and behaviour

Our international environment fosters a deeper-than-usual engagement with others' cultural backgrounds and beliefs, and thereby a more comprehensive appreciation of one's own life trajectory. To live together in such a community means developing intrinsic and mutual consideration for others, but also respecting rules that exist for everyone's welfare and betterment. Our rules are simple and exist for students' safety, personal development and to provide cohesion in our community.

Cohesion is particularly important in this international environment and we therefore remain especially vigilant never to discriminate against boarders because of their cultural background, but also their linguistic background, special educational need, or academic or sporting ability. Other protected characteristics we remain vigilant about are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex (gender), sexual orientation. We aim to discuss such characteristics not only in lessons such as PSHE or debates, but informally in the evenings and weekends, and to politely challenge any misunderstandings.

The school has and consistently implements a written policy to promote good behaviour amongst pupils. This policy includes: measures to combat bullying, including cyberbullying, and to promote positive behaviour; school rules; disciplinary sanctions; when restraint, including reasonable force, is to be used and how this will be recorded and managed; and arrangements for searching pupils and their possessions.

Activities and free time

We believe that the boarding experience should include positive involvement in sporting and social activities. Outside of lessons, students' time is mainly arranged around our PLACES programme of activities and trips, prep time, free time whilst at school and exets. This creates well-rounded individuals who appreciate the benefits of making their own decisions as much as working in a team, of pursuing pre-existing ambitions as well as exploring opportunities hitherto unthunk.

The school provides dedicated recreational areas for relaxing and silent areas for studying, a garden and access to local facilities including a leisure centre, etc. School wifi and notice boards mean students can find out about and attend events, and staff support this wherever possible.

Learning support

Pastoral care includes academic support. Students are guided towards autonomy through supervised evening and weekend prep sessions with staff assisting, and with extra prep sessions and lessons for individual students experiencing difficulties or catching up with the demands of the English system.

Student voice

We believe students' views are important in decisions about the school and actively encourage them to raise any ideas at all with staff through several channels. We have an open-door policy for students to speak to management directly at any time, as well as formal suggestions and complaints procedures.

Staffing

We operate rigorous safer recruitment practices to put student safety above all else, and whilst on duty the welfare, safety and security of the pupils is the prime concern of staff. Staff are trained in dealing with day-to-day matters from homesickness to sore throats and in emergencies expert medical help is available from the team of doctors at the nearby Eastfield Medical Centre. Staff live and sleep in staff flats on site and so are always available.

The management team meets weekly to share information on students to help ensure they are well understood and cared for across our academic and boarding provision. Supervision of students is close but inconspicuous, so that students are kept safe at all times without being made to feel unnecessarily observed or restricted.

Physical and mental health, and emotional wellbeing

Education is not just about studying. Newbury Hall life with its activities, responsibilities, rules, rights, etc is designed to help students' physical, mental and emotional wellbeing. Students can be alone in school or their rooms if they wish and are encouraged to personalise their rooms with appropriate personal photos, pictures and posters, etc but we encourage full participation in activities.

We believe students should feel they can talk to any member of staff anytime about anything, be it a personal problem, a matter of guidance or just a chat. We encourage students to decide who they feel most comfortable with, but also facilitate staff-student relationships by eating together, reminding staff to be available to students at all times, and operating an open-door policy. Staff are available on site day and night and students also have a selection of external people they can contact to discuss anything at all, including an independent listener.

Promoting a healthy lifestyle is a key feature of Newbury Hall life, particularly with respect to alcohol and drug abuse, smoking and healthy eating. All meals are served in the Forum and cooked in-house by our professional team with top-quality, locally sourced ingredients to deliver a well-balanced and varied menu of international and traditional British dishes. A choice of continental and cooked breakfasts are available each day, as well as a hot lunch and dinner seven days a week. In addition, a late-night snack is always available and a fresh fruit basket is accessible throughout the day. Students have input into the menu through student surveys, etc and all boarders, including those with special dietary, medical or religious needs, are properly catered for.

Signed:

Alex McNish
Head of School & Education
Date: 01.02.19