



ROYAL HIGH SCHOOL  
BATH

---

G D S T

## **BOARDING PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE**

**Applicable to:** All prospective and existing students, parents and staff.

At The Royal High boarding means looking after the boarders so they can lead fulfilling and balanced lives at school and beyond; it is about showing them how to look after themselves and others; teaching them skills to become independent; it is about helping them to be ready when they leave school for their future all within a safe and enabling environment.

### **Aims:**

1. To ensure that all boarders enjoy a living environment which is supportive, caring and safe; and which supports their physical, intellectual, spiritual and moral development.
2. To understand that joined up pastoral care underpins personal development.
3. To have a strong School-Home link to ensure that boarding parents are kept informed of all issues relating to their daughters' physical, intellectual, spiritual and moral development.
4. To ensure that boarders enjoy equitable rights with day students and their voice is heard and acted upon.
5. To ensure that the school's ethos and values are upheld within the boarding environment.

### **Implementation:**

1.
  - Years 7-11 are in School House. School House has a Housemistress who is also the Head of Boarding, one Deputy Housemistress, one Resident Matron and three resident Boarding Assistants. Years 12-13 are in Gloucester House which has a Housemistress, an Assistant Housemistress and a Day Assistant Housemistress, with the use of School House's Boarding Assistants when necessary. The Head of International Students, House Tutors, the Graduate PE Assistant also perform boarding duties. Boarding also benefits from a fully staffed medical centre Monday-Friday. Housemistresses and Matron are 3-Day First Aid trained; all other staff are First Aid in the Workplace trained. This level of staffing ensures 24-hour care for students and cover for the Houses.
  - The Head of Boarding and Housemistress of Gloucester House to ensure not only that a caring and kind ethos is promoted within boarding, but also that sanctions are administered fairly and consistently within agreed guidelines.
  - The House staff to ensure that all guidelines and procedures relating to matters of discipline and Health and Safety are adhered to.
  - The Head of Boarding, in conjunction with the Health and Safety Coordinator and the site team to ensure that appropriate Risk Assessments are carried out in all boarding areas and any repairs are undertaken to reduce any risk.
  - The Head of Boarding to ensure compliance with all Fire Regulations, including the organisation of regular fire practices.
  - There are coded doors at the entrances to the boarding areas. All external visitors must report to the office and be accompanied into the boarding house by a member of staff. All adults visiting boarding are kept under sufficient staff supervision, and restricted to the common rooms, except for parents returning their children at the beginning of terms/half terms when they are to let a member of House Staff know they are around and ask permission to enter their children's rooms.
  - When boarders are invited to supper with the Head at her House on site, it is very clear where the demarcation is between shared and public use of space and the staff members' private residential accommodation for safeguarding purposes. Boarders are not invited into any other private staff accommodation.

2.
  - The Head to be kept informed of all issues relating to boarders' welfare and discipline.
  - The Head of Boarding to ensure that boarding matters are fully represented to the Head and that staffing arrangements and procedures within the Houses are in line with all regulatory requirements.
  - The Head of Boarding and Housemistress in Gloucester House ensure that information about boarding students is passed on to tutors, Heads of Key Stage and the Deputy Head Pastoral and the class teacher when necessary and records are kept on CPoms. Likewise, information or concerns that any staff have about boarders is communicated to House Staff where appropriate for their care.
  - House staff to oversee and monitor the boarders' independent study (prep) and to liaise with academic staff in the event of problems.
3.
  - Boarding parents are kept informed of all issues relating to their daughters' development. Home will always remain the most important place in boarders' lives and their parents the most important people. We work together with parents and keep in regular contact with them to ensure students can flourish. Online boarding parent forums take place once a term and there is an online Boarders' Academic morning in December for those parents who are unable to attend these meetings in person.
4.
  - All boarding students are to be admitted to the school on the same basis for selection as day students.
  - Boarders to have an equal opportunity to participate in all student forums so that their voice is heard alongside their day counterparts. We support the boarders in being aspirational and in developing their interests and talents whilst learning to achieve balance in their life.
  - Students play a vital role in the running of their houses and have many opportunities to develop leadership skills and a sense of responsibility and sympathy towards the needs of others.
  - Day students are very welcome in boarding common rooms at the appropriate times. They must be signed in with a member of staff and out again on departure. Guests can only be taken into bedrooms with the permission of the other roommates and staff.
  - Concerning special provision: (1) the catering team (Holroyd Howe) are made aware of any boarder who requires a special diet for health or religious reasons (e.g. gluten free for a celiac, or halal food for a Muslim student); (2) Head of International Students meets with a student committee termly and supports the international student community (3) we celebrate events connected with cultural or religious festivals (e.g. Chinese New Year/International Week), bearing in mind that we have over 20 nationalities represented in boarding; and (4) a teacher acts as liaison for the Mandarin speakers and there are lessons in English as an Additional Language. The Housemistress of Gloucester House represents the boarding community and supports boarders in the 'Undivided' Equality and Diversity Steering Group; (5) The Head of Boarding leads the Boarders' Council and Food Committee meetings termly and represents boarders at SLT.
  - Minutes and actions of committee meetings are displayed in the Boarding Houses and fed back to boarders in House Meetings and via the prefects.
  - With reference to spiritual life, boarding facilitates attendance at local places of worship (e.g., the Catholic and Anglican churches/Mosque). A space is provided in each house where Muslims can go to pray. During Ramadan, the boarding staff allow access to food outside the hours of fasting.
  - The Independent Listener is introduced to students through the 'Who I can talk to' poster and is mentioned at the new boarders' induction. They are also mentioned in our 'Boarding Complaints and Concerns' leaflet. The present I.L. is the Reverend Debbie Pow, Associate Priest, Charlcombe with Bath St Stephen. Rev Pow introduces herself to the boarders in person at the start of the school year. Boarders can also access the School Counsellors who come in during the school week via confidential medical centre appointments.
5.
  - RHS Boarding Learner Qualities are promoted in the Boarding Houses and Year 7s specifically aim to achieve their "Boarding BRICKS" by the end of the year with guidance from the House Staff. Boarding helps students to understand people that they live and work with, to respect differences, to learn how to compromise and about tolerance. We teach the boarders to "look out for one another and care for each other", which is repeated in House meetings and individual or group discussions. Boarding encourages Fearlessness for Life by stepping out of their comfort zone be it on a weekend activity or sharing a room with someone new; boarding enables Skills for the Future opportunities for leadership, independent study, budgeting and worldwide travel; and encompasses the school's value of Family Forever through lifelong global friendships made from boarding at RHS.