



TAUNTON
SCHOOL

BOARDING PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

Boarding is based on the following principles:

- The wellbeing and safeguarding of our pupils is at the heart of everything we do.
- We know every child. They are cared for by experienced professionals working in partnership with parents.
- Our boarding community is inclusive as reflected in the UN Children's Charter and ensures there is no discrimination against any child. Our ethos respects and promotes protected characteristics as outlined in the Equality Act 2010.
- A boarding education provides lots of opportunities to encourage the all-round development of both the individual and the community. It reflects our role as an IB World School: we are innovative, forward thinking, global in outlook and global in the make-up of our pupil body.
- We want our pupils to be fulfilled and happy and, at the minimum, this means they must feel safe and properly cared for by well qualified and experienced people.
- We want to provide an environment where all pupils, day pupils and boarders benefit from sharing opportunities for development together, but in which their different needs and abilities are also recognised .

Our boarding practice aims to:

1. Promote the health and welfare of each individual and access to economic well being.
2. Encourage physical, spiritual, social and moral development.
3. Develop a sense of identity in a community through common practice and activity.
4. Embrace partnership with parents and guardians through effective communication.
5. Provide a full, inclusive and well understood induction programme for all boarders.
6. Have well qualified senior leaders and governors who value boarding and understand the issues that boarders within the Taunton School community are going through so as to ensure the positive wellbeing of all pupils.

The Model:

- The composition of the Houses gives individuals opportunity to mix with a range of people of different talents, cultures and backgrounds.
- Boarding houses are led by qualified and inducted resident House Staff.
- There are a team of tutors with academic and pastoral responsibility for pupils.
- An ongoing programme of refurbishment and redecoration underlines our commitment to high quality boarding.
- The Deputy Head Pastoral (Senior School) Mrs Lyndsay White is the school's appointed Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- TS Student leaders have a pastoral responsibility within the houses.
- We employ a team of nurses (including specialist Mental Health Nurses), doctors, Counsellors and a Chaplain.
- Independent listeners from outside the school are available for boarders to talk to.
- There is a School Council and a Boarders' Forum for boarders to air their views – also achieved in weekly group tutorial time.
- Prominence and investment in a full life throughout the working week and weekend.
- The school 'is a home from home'. Boarders have: a full programme throughout the week to ensure that the boarding community is supported and stimulating.

THE BOARDING PHILOSOPHY

- Taunton School teaches pupils to listen to the views of others, to accept where appropriate, to be forgiving of others' faults and to accept the rules and conventions by which our community exists.
- Bullying is not tolerated and pupils understand how to report such behaviour.
- We are committed to every child feeling safe and knowing who they can talk to if they have a problem or a concern: we believe in 'pupil voice' and actively encourage pupils to be part of our decision making process.
- If a pupil has any sort of care plan (academic, medical, mental health etc) put together the pupil feels part of it and has appropriate advocacy.
- To have an easy access to PSHEE programme which reflects the specific needs of the boarding community and provides them education which empowers and promotes their voice.
- Working with parents and guardians and ensuring that travel arrangements are safe.
- Develop leadership, humility and care for others: all Houses have leadership positions with appropriate safeguards in place.