SHERBORNE BOYS

Statement of Boarding Principles and Practice

Approving body: Pastoral Committee
Owner: Deputy Head Pastoral
Author: Deputy Head Pastoral

Executive Summary

This document outlines the principles and practice which ensure that all pupils' needs are met and their welfare is protected and promoted while boarding at Sherborne Boys.

Date of Review: Michaelmas 2026
Date of Approval: 11 November 2026[1]

Issue Number: 2.1
Review Due: Lent 2026

[1] Pending ratification by the Pastoral Committee

Statement

Boarding at Sherborne Boys is at the centre of the enriching education we provide. Pupils are given the space to be individuals, to explore interests and to develop new ideas, while simultaneously learning to live in a close community that requires them to respect and celebrate the differences in others. Central to this approach is the system of seven boarding houses, each of which contains approximately 70 pupils across the age range (13-18). The small numbers of day pupils at Sherborne Boys are fully integrated across the Houses. The boarding House communities provide the ideal environment for pupils to develop the personal and inter-personal qualities they will need for life beyond School; integrity, responsibility for oneself and others, resilience, self-awareness, empathy, leadership, service and a good sense of humour.

To provide the best boarding experience, we believe that full, 24/7 boarding should mean just that, and the Houses are busy at weekends due to our commitment to this ethos. Each House has its own personality, but all are defined by the excellent pastoral care provided by the Housemasters, their families, the matrons, and the tutors. At Sherborne Boys, our Housemasters understand the importance of open lines of communication between House and parent and spearhead the support that we provide to all pupils in all areas of their School life. Pupils within the Sixth Form are selected for positions of responsibility and are fundamental to the effective management and leadership of their Houses.

A pupil's House is a source of unity. One only has to see pupils of all ages come together as a House to perform in sport, music, or drama, to see how strong the House spirit can be. Most meals are served centrally in the dining hall, which is just one way in which pupils can sustain friendships outside their House group. Other avenues for this include the evening and weekend activities that provide pupils with a different and vital form of stimulus, allowing them to unwind and to grow in a safe and trusting atmosphere. Many of these activities, but not all, are provided in collaboration with Sherborne Girls' School. True friendships and support systems are forged that often remain strong for the rest of their lives.

There are many avenues of support and help available to the pupils, both within and beyond the boarding houses. Staff, both academic and support, and not just those with specific pastoral responsibility take a real interest in the wellbeing of all pupils at Sherborne Boys. The School remains committed to providing an excellent pastoral education, alongside its pastoral support system. Of course, much of the pastoral care that happens is between the pupils themselves and this is one of the School's main strengths. The School welcomes pupils of all faiths and cultures and values the diversity that this brings to the community.

Appendix 1: Summary of Changes

- Number of boarding houses updated.