



## BOARDING POLICY

### RATIONALE

At Mowden Hall School we aim to provide a warm, friendly and caring boarding environment that reflects the atmosphere and ethos of home. This policy provides an overview of the arrangements for boarding at Mowden.

### OVERVIEW

Children can be Weekly Boarders, Flexi Boarders or Day Pupils. Children are able to transfer from being Day Pupils to Boarders at any stage, as long as there is space in the Boarding House.

We have two boarding houses at Mowden; Oak House for boys, and Elm House for girls. Both of the Boarding Houses are in the Main School Building and are separated by the Boarding House Sitting Room. The dorms in each house are named after geographical places in Northumberland. Children are generally grouped together in the dorms by age, however it is not unusual for year groups to be combined. Children are allocated dorms by the Houseparent. The Houseparent, where possible, aims to rotate the room allocation each term so that all boarders have an opportunity to experience time in different dorms. The Houseparent bases plans on numbers of boarders and availability of bedspace. Every effort is made to listen to the views of both children and parents. This notwithstanding, it is not always possible to accommodate individual requests.

### AIMS

- To ensure that each individual boarder feels genuinely cared for
- To ensure that each individual boarder feels safe and secure
- To encourage friendships and develop skills whereby boarders can live together happily and harmoniously
- To provide a relaxed, family environment
- To provide facilities that are clean, modern and cheerful



Independent  
Thinkers



Honest



Community



Resilient



Kind



Communication

## REWARDS AND SANCTIONS

All significant behaviour (positive or negative) is recorded on the centralised school information system (CPOMS) and written in a centralised communication book. This information is then used to track pupils' boarding progress and is fed into termly boarding reports for parents. Any instances of poor behaviour will be followed up by the relevant member of staff. Instances of repeated or significant poor behaviour may result in a boarding specific sanction. Examples include; removal to a different dorm, earlier bedtime, temporary removal of privileges. Please refer to the [Behaviour Policy](#) and the [Code of Conduct for Children](#) for further information.

## NEW BOARDER INDUCTION

When a pupil starts boarding they receive a [Senior Boarding Handbook](#) or a [Junior Boarding Handbook](#). Their parents receive a [Boarders Handbook for Parents](#). The pupils use their handbook as a reference guide. The Handbooks explain many of the systems and routines in place. One to One catch up meetings with new boarders are held within the first term with the Houseparent and the pupil Heads of Boarding to monitor their progress. A short questionnaire is completed before the end of their first half term to check in with them about their boarding experience. Feedback about how they are settling and integrating is frequently shared with parents via email, but more formally towards the end of a term in a Boarding Report.

On their first night of boarding, an induction checklist is completed which includes showing new boarders around the boarding house, walking through fire exit routes – both exit one and two, and explaining how to call for a member of staff in the night if needed.

## PREFECTS

Heads of Boarding (1 boy and 1 girl) and Year Group Boarding House Prefects are appointed each year. In the first half term of their appointment, they meet with the Head of Boarding where they are issued with [Heads of Boarding and Boarding Prefect roles and responsibilities](#). This is discussed and reviewed with them, to ensure they are provided with the appropriate information regarding their role. They are appointed by the Head following discussion with senior members of staff and the Head of Boarding. Heads of Boarding and Boarding House Prefects are role models for other boarding pupils and as such are expected to demonstrate an understanding of the school objectives in relation to boarding and support the ethos of the Boarding House. They are able to advise and help new boarders on matters relating to boarding life at Mowden. The Boarding House Prefects meet with the Head of Boarding once a term and put forward boarders' suggestions with regards to boarding life.

## BOARDING HOUSE AGREEMENT

Mowden boarders, supported by the Head of Boarding, produced a list of agreements for conduct within the Boarding House. This is included in the boarding handbooks and is also displayed on the large notice board outside the Boarding House Sitting Room.

### **CHILD WELFARE AND PROTECTION**

Mowden Hall aims to provide the very best care for the pupils entrusted to us. We aim to ensure that every pupil is happy at school and feels that they have a productive part to play in the boarding house and in the school. All staff at the school are given regular training in Child Protection matters. All pupils are encouraged to speak to a member of the boarding house staff, a member of the Senior Leadership Team, the School Nurse or any member of staff if they have a problem or become aware of another pupil who has a problem.

Relevant phone numbers for Child Line, the Children's Commissioner, Children's Services and The Samaritans are detailed in the Boarding Handbook but also displayed prominently on the noticeboard outside the Boarding House Sitting Room.