



# Heath Mount School

## Boarding Policy and Statement of Boarding Principles

Boarding at Heath Mount School is guided by the following principles:

- Boarding at Heath Mount aims for all children to have a successful and enriching boarding experience.
- Boarding enables pupils to be part of a diverse boarding community which has a foundation built on understanding, acceptance and inclusion.
- All of our boarders are well known to the boarding team and the staff develops strong relationships with the children, parents and the main school staff. This helps staff ensure a boarder feels happy and secure and has the confidence to thrive.
- Boarders are encouraged to develop their independence and self-reliance whilst being able to make mistakes in a safe and nurtured environment.
- The boarding team at Heath Mount want all boarders to feel that the boarding houses are their 'home from home' whilst having a sense of belonging all boarders should feel comfortable, safe and happy without fear of bullying.
- Boarding at Heath Mount can also provide a stable structured routine and environment to pupils whose home life may be disrupted by factors beyond their control.

In practice, these principles are implemented in the following ways:

- All boarders work closely with the House Staff to ensure they take responsibility for their own belongings and have carried out all tasks on time, such as placing their washing into the washing baskets.
- Boarders are encouraged to complete all school working during prep sessions where the boarding tutors and graduate assistants can help. Should a boarder need more time to complete prep or practice a music instrument boarders are encouraged to liaise with the House Parents who will help them manage their time to ensure they get time to play and complete their work.
- All boarders are encouraged to take on leadership tasks during boarding this could be in the form of being a new boarders 'boarding buddy' showing them where to go and what time and helping them settle in. Older boarders are also encouraged to help with younger boarders reading them a story before lights out and by setting a good example.
- Heath Mount is committed to providing outstanding pastoral care to its boarders. To do this, House staff are selected on their ability to demonstrate empathy, understanding of the individual and their willingness to contribute to the boarding community. Therefor all boarding staff are encouraged to continue their professional development through courses and CPD.



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- A consistent routine and approach is followed by both boarding houses and boarders are made aware of any upcoming changes. Boarders can also find out which boarding tutors and graduate assistants are on duty by looking at the display board located in the main dining room.
- Boarders are encouraged to express their feels about the running of the boarding houses. Boarders can express these views during house a meeting, on the termly questionnaires, by speaking to a member of house staff or by leaving a message in the suggestion/worry box. All views are taken on board and feedback from questionnaires are displayed in both boarding house.