



Ackworth School

Boarding Policy and Statement of Boarding Principles

Aim

1. The aim of this policy is to provide an overview of the arrangements for boarding at Ackworth School. More detailed information on specific subjects is available in other policy related documents.

Overview

2. Ackworth School is an independent coeducational school for day and boarding pupils. It was founded in 1779 by the Society of Friends and as such is based upon Quaker principles of Peace, Truth, Equality, Sustainability and Simplicity. The school day is structured for boarding, and day students are encouraged to participate in the extended day.

3. Ackworth School has two boarding houses, Boys' School House and Girls' School House, located in the main school building. Each boarding house has a resident Head of House (House Parent), Matron and three or four Assistant House staff (some are resident and some are not).

Boarding Principles

4. In order to ensure the pastoral care, welfare, health and safety of its pupils and therefore its boarders Ackworth School aims to:

- Provide each pupil with a calm, caring, supportive extended family environment in their boarding house.
- Ensure that the atmosphere in the school and in the boarding houses is calm and friendly and that there is an emphasis on integrity, tolerance and respect for others.
- Ensure that the boarding staff have the appropriate training and resources to discharge their duty of care effectively.
- Monitor and develop the programme of pastoral care throughout the school and boarding houses.
- Maintain an effective anti-bullying programme throughout the school and in the boarding houses.
- Safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils whilst at school and on all school trips.
- Promote good behaviour, responsibility and self-discipline amongst pupils.
- Develop support, good judgement and a sense of community in all pupils.

Boarding House Ethos

5. The two boarding houses are designed to operate on the principle of an extended family. Older pupils, and especially the School Officers (all of whom are boarders) are given responsibility for some of the supervision of younger pupils and for other various tasks within the house, but this is monitored closely. The Head of House and the house team are expected to, and do, get to know their pupils and provide the support, guidance and encouragement that they need from time to time.

Child Welfare and Protection

6. Ackworth School's aim is 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.

7. All staff at the school are given regular training in Child Protection matters. All pupils are encouraged to speak to a member of the house team, a member of the Senior Management Team, a member of the Health Centre Team or any member of staff if they have a problem or become aware of another pupil who has a problem.

8. The school operates its own Health Centre, with a trained nurse on duty during the school day. Pupils also have access to local public medical facilities in Pontefract.

9. Pupils with emotional problems are carefully monitored and, when necessary, are referred to our Mental Health and Wellbeing Practitioner. They will be carefully assessed and where necessary will be referred to the local Child and Adolescent Medical Health Service (CAMHS) office.

10. Relevant phone numbers for Child Line, NSPCC, Samaritans and ISI are displayed prominently in the boarding houses:

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| • Mental Health and Wellbeing Practitioner | 01977 624311 |
| • Child Line | 0800 1111 |
| • ISI | 0207 600 0100 |
| • NSPCC | 0800 800 5000 |
| • Samaritans | 116 123 |
| • The Children's Commissioner | 0800 528 0731 |

House Sanctions and Rewards

11. As far as possible, Heads of House and their team act *in loco parentis* and, like all good parents, provide a caring, supportive environment for the children in their care. Each house has its own system of rewards and sanctions working within the school's broader system, with the emphasis on encouragement and reward, rather than punishment.

12. The school has an active and effective Anti-Bullying Programme and house teams are constantly vigilant for any form of harassment or bullying. Any cases will be dealt with according to the school Anti-Bullying Policy.

Communication

13. Ackworth School is a 'home from home' for our boarding pupils and therefore considerable care is taken to ensure that:

- Heads of House and their team get to know pupils and, as far as possible, their parents as quickly as possible.
- Parents receive regular updates on their child's progress.
- Parents are informed of any problems that their child might be having and encouraged to work with the school to resolve those issues.
- Parents inform house staff if they become aware of any problems with their child.

Regulatory Compliance

14. Ackworth School works hard to ensure that it meets all of the regulatory requirements set out in the National Minimum Boarding Standards and in other relevant legislation.

15. Regular checks are made to ensure that appropriate Health and Safety standards are met in all aspects of school life.

16. The school is subject to regular inspection by the Independent Schools Inspectorate to ensure that all regulatory requirements are met or exceeded.

Management and Administration

17. Heads of House are ultimately responsible to the Head for the smooth and effective running of their boarding house. In practice they report directly to the Deputy Head who is responsible for pastoral care in the school.

18. Regular Heads of House meetings are chaired by the Deputy Head and are used for promulgation of information and discussions about topical issues or pupils who are causing concern.