



PRESTFELDE

BOARDING POLICY

FRAMEWORK

BOARDING PRINCIPLES

Prestfelde School has three boarding houses, Highfield, Beckbury and Prestfelde. Prestfelde House currently accommodates all boarders with the upper floor being dedicated to boys and the middle floor to girls. Beckbury is used as the girl's day changing rooms.

All three boarding houses are used for holiday courses. Where these courses coincide with term time Prestfelde House is not used, though there may be an opportunity to integrate the children into some boarding activities.

Prestfelde House has its own dedicated house parent/matron who is resident each evening and night as well as assistant house tutors. When the houseparent/matron is not on duty, her evening duties are covered by house tutors who are also qualified teaching staff employed within the school.

In recent years the school has moved from full time boarding to weekly and flexi boarding. This process allows for a more gentle start to boarding with the opportunity to increase the number of nights as confidence increases. The school requires a commitment by those flexi boarding to board for at least one term on the nights they have selected.

At present the number of boarders is on the increase and on some nights the house is nearing capacity, especially for 'taster nights'.

A floor plan of the houses can be found in the health and safety document and the school's prospectus highlights the boarding ethos of the school.

The following are the principles upon which boarding in this school is based:

1. The development of the whole person and the communication of values are vital.
2. Being an open and trusting school, boarding is based upon mutual respect for all members.
3. Each boarder has the right to be able to work, play and relax free from abuse, intimidation, harassment, teasing and bullying.
4. There is equal opportunity and respect for all boarders, regardless of ethnicity, culture, gender or disability.
5. Each boarder is to be treated as an individual and with respect by other pupils and staff.



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6. Although living corporately; staff and boarders acknowledge each other's privacy rights.
7. Each boarder has the right to extend his/her intellectual growth.
8. All boarders should be able to develop spiritually, culturally, morally and socially.
9. Links with parents are seen as an indispensable part of the support and development of boarders

CAPACITY
PRESTFELDE = **28 boys**
12 girls

PASTORAL CARE OF BOARDERS

BULLYING

The boarding community follow the schools anti-bullying policy and this is held centrally and can be referred to at any time. This is backed up in the morning chapel services, during school PHSE lessons, and participation in 'anti bullying week' which usually occurs in November.

CHILD PROTECTION ISSUES

The boarding community follow the school's child protection policy for parents, children and other interested parties. (See the Safeguarding policy on website.)

COMPLAINTS

COMPLAINTS BY BOARDERS

The boarding community follow the school's complaints policy for parents, children and other interested parties. This policy is held centrally and can be referred to at any time. The children also have direct access to two independent adults, (Sue Marshall and one of the school governors, Mr Gordon Woods) as well as the school chaplain. The children also have access to the numbers and websites for Childline and the N.S.P.C.C. amongst others.



PRESTFELDE **COMPLAINTS BY BOARDERS PARENTS / GUARDIANS**

The houseparent/deputy head (pastoral) are the first port of call for complaints regarding boarding. However, as with the rest of the school, access is available to the headmaster, chaplain or school governors (See the school complaints policy). There are posters on the noticeboards around the house highlighting the policy and also those who can be contacted for help.

ACCESS TO TELEPHONES & email

The boarders have access to a telephone at all times and can use it to ring either family members or the respective parties in the event of a complaint. A private area is available for these phone calls if required. Added to this, boarders can now bring in a mobile phone or tablet that they can access every evening to make phone calls or email via the school internet. These pieces of electronic equipment are held by matron during the day and given out between supper and bedtime, and collected in before 'lights out'.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The boarding environment endeavours to give each child regardless of creed, colour, religion, gender or disability equal opportunities to all boarding house activities. In Prestfelde house has undergone an extensive programme of improvements. The same beds have been allocated to the oldest boarders or those who board most regularly. With the introduction of flexi-boarding, the children, where possible have a specified bed. For those who board for one or two nights, they maybe allocated a bed which has been used by another boarder sleeping in on different evenings. (See the schools equal opportunities policy)

DISCIPLINE

The boarding houses follow the schools discipline policy and have a range of rewards and punishments for good and bad behaviour. Within the boarding house these can range from early bedtimes to the withholding of privileges.

CRISIS MANAGEMENT

The boarding community uses the school's crisis management policy. Please see the health & safety document



PRESTFELDE HEALTH CARE/HEALTH RECORDS

The boarding houses have a matron dedicated to their needs in the evening and medical centre staff during the day. The school has medical facilities for those in need of it. Matron keeps records of the boarders' individual medical records, including allergies, medication and so forth. These are kept confidentially in a locked medical centre and on iSams. The sick bay facility can be staffed 24 hours a day and matron can monitor children who are admitted.

ACTIVITIES/FREE TIME

The House staff provide a wide range of activities on a weekly basis and these include competitions, clubs, free time etc. The boarders are informed at the start of term of 'fixed clubs' and there is a short announcement of the activities each evening after supper. In the summer the boarders have access to the golf course, cricket nets, tennis courts, computer room, adventure playground etc. During winter and spring there is an activities room, the gym, an indoor pool and the house itself. Added to this, trips are made off site in the evenings.

SECURING BOARDERS VIEWS

Boarders have meetings with the House staff in which their views on certain procedures / activities within the house are reviewed and discussed. There is a head of boys boarding, who, amongst his other roles, is seen as the spokesperson for any views that are wished to be passed on.

MONITORS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

House captains/monitors are made within the final year. Pupils in the school represent their sporting houses. There are responsibilities for all of the senior boys and girls and these tasks are based around helping the younger children and general awareness of tasks which need to be carried out. The head of boys boarding acts as a monitor in the boarding house and is the spokesperson for the boarders.

CARE OF POSSESSIONS

Boarders are provided with a locker in their bedroom or the drawers underneath the "box beds" for possessions and a locker of their own in which to keep their valuables. Boarders may bring a large variety of items from home. For security, boarders are asked to limit the number of valuable items that they bring into school.



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INDUCTION OF NEW BOARDERS

Any new boarders are given a 'shadow' who will often be an experienced boarder. The house parents, assistant housemasters and matron will provide all necessary support to any new boarder. Many children starting boarding at Prestfelde are existing day pupils, or those who have 'tested the water' with flexi boarding. The induction process, as a result, is usually straight forward and easy to manage. New pupils who come to the school to board are made fully aware of boarding routine by the houseparent/matron who will organise an appropriate "shadow" to help them 'find their feet'.

CATERING

School catering continues to be maintained at a high standard, and through monitoring and feedback, the variety, presentation and standard continue to improve and meet the requirements of the healthy eating outcome for every child matters.

ONEROUS DEMANDS ON BOARDERS

The house parent and the form teachers liaise over the workloads of the pupils in their care. A staff meeting to discuss pupils takes place weekly where matters concerning individual pupils are discussed. The boarding staff are aware of the demands made of every pupil in their care and intervene when they feel the pupils may be overburdened by work or events.

PASSING ON OF INFORMATION

Due to the flexible nature of Prestfelde's boarding it is important that information is passed between the staff on duty in the house on different evenings. This is achieved in three ways. Firstly, on the comments sheet / diary in the house where comments are made on the evening, including discipline and other pastoral matters. This is then signed off by the member of staff on the following morning and brought to the attention of all school staff. Secondly, the matrons have a hand over book which is used in a similar manner. Thirdly, a record of important daily information is kept in the pastoral care section of iSams. Here, information is recorded about all pastoral matters on a daily basis which all staff can read at any time. The boarding staff in particular record any matters arising from the previous evening or night, and matrons check the book at least each morning and afternoon as their shifts change.



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FIRE PROTECTION

Prestfelde House has a procedure for evacuation in the event of fire and methods for telling of occupancy within the house on any given evening. Regular fire evacuation practices are carried out and timed. Each house has a list to hand in the event of an evacuation which includes the number and people in each dormitory.

At the start of each term the pupils are informed of the fire evacuation procedure and a practice is carried out. This process is repeated on the arrival of any new boarder. The Prestfelde boarding house is located over three floors and this presents obvious evacuation difficulties. However, there are two main secure staircases and dormitories are instructed on their nearest route. The pupils leave via these nearest stairs and meet under the covered way where they are registered by the house staff.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The boarding house follows the school's health and safety regulations and carry out all the actions dictated by the policy.

Boarding staff complete a risk assessment covering general boarding activities, and where necessary risk assessment forms for individual activities such as swimming and educational visits.

SUPERVISION OF BOARDERS

STAFFING

The boarding houses within the school are staffed each evening by houseparent/matron and a house tutor. Added to this there are staff who live on site and just off site who are available in an emergency.

STAFF ILLNESS

With the deputy headmaster and house tutors living on site, as well as numerous staff living in close proximity, there is adequate cover in case of illness.



PRESTFELDE NIGHT SUPERVISION OF BOARDERS

During boarding nights there is always a houseparent /matron and house tutor present in the house, and other staff are available if required.

PROBLEMS PERSONAL AND ACADEMIC

PERSONAL

Each house has a range of adults in place to help the children emotionally and to care for the children's needs. The children should be able to approach any member of the house staff with any problem or indeed take it further afield in the school by taking it to the chaplain. All children in school have a Form tutor to whom they can turn if they need help. Furthermore, all children meet with their Tutor at least once a week during the school day. If the pupils wish to discuss their problems outside of school, access is available to two adults, via telephone numbers, with whom they can discuss their issues.

In addition, the children have to hand the phone number and websites of the N.S.P.C.C. and Childline.

Each house keeps a record of the evening in the boarding house and this will include any problems that arose or disciplinary actions taken.

ACADEMIC

Academic problems are first tackled in the boarding house by the houseparent/matron with the house tutor. If the problem is deemed serious enough then the staff or pupil will contact their form teacher / subject teacher. If there is an on-going problem, added help may be sort from the Support for Learning department. Parents will be informed of any such problems and the interventions that have been put into place. Work study periods are placed into the evening routine as the term progresses and exams come closer. On a nightly basis, the pupils will have their record books and preps checked. The boarding staff all has access to the school list of pupils with learning difficulties and are aware of this when checking preps and helping with any work.

PAPERWORK

- **FIRE SAFETY PROCEDURE**
- **HEALTH AND SAFETY PROCEDURES**
- **BOARDING SCHOOLS NATIONAL MINIMUM STANDARDS SELF-EVALUATION DOCUMENT**
- **ANTI-BULLYING POLICY**



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- **POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR POLICY**
- **STAFF EMPLOYMENT MANUAL**
- **BOARDING HANDBOOK**
- **FIRST AID POLICY**

RECORDS

- **MAJOR PUNISHMENTS IN THE BOARDING ENVIRONMENT**
- **HEALTH RECORDS FOR BOARDERS**
- **RISK ASSESSMENTS**

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