

Statement of Boarding Principles and Practice



IPSWICH SCHOOL

Ipswich School welcomes both full, weekly and Flexi boarders (from the UK and overseas) who wish to attend the school and who need, or prefer, residential accommodation.

The boarding houses open the day before the start of term and close on the last day of term or half term. Full boarders are expected to reside full time in boarding - we do not have exeats - however, with consent from parents, they may visit friends and stay overnight at weekends, where adults (over 25 years old) are supervising. Weekly boarders usually arrive on Monday morning and go home after school on Friday, though they may board on a Friday evening if they are playing a school fixture on the following Saturday. Some weekly boarders might live quite a distance away and not near a bus route into school, these students are allowed to return to boarding on a Sunday late afternoon or evening

Ethos

Our houses provide a safe, supportive, caring and happy environments in which our boarders develop and thrive. Our houses provide a safe, supportive, caring and happy environments in which our boarders develop and thrive. Boarders are expected to contribute to the ethos of the houses by being respectful, kind and caring towards one another, acting with integrity, and treating all staff with courtesy and politeness.

Management

There is a dedicated pastoral team of Deputy Head Pastoral (including Head of Boarding), Assistant Head of Boarding, Houseparents, Assistant Houseparents, Matrons and House Tutors who deliver a high level of care to all our boarders by making sure medical, dietary and emotional needs are met. The Deputy Head Pastoral (including Head of Boarding) and Tutors are teachers at school and provide a vital link between the boarding house and school; they also offer academic support and advice to the boarders when they undertake tasks set by subject teachers to be completed outside of lessons. The school's Chaplain visits the boarders regularly, providing extra support and guidance.

Statement of Boarding Principles and Practice



IPSWICH SCHOOL

Aims

The Boarding Houses work to reflect the aims of the school:

- to provide an environment where pupils feel safe and brave in all that they do;
- to present pupils with a wealth of opportunities, both inside and outside the classroom, and to help them to find their own passions;
- to monitor our provision: pastoral, curricular and co-curricular, learning from the best that we do, to ensure that the only limit on pupils' development is their own potential;
- to look for new ways to achieve the high standards that the school aspires to, working in a smarter way by using a 'less is more' approach, and managing the demands on our pupils and staff;
- to strengthen the links in the 'triangle' joining parents, pupils and school, to ensure we communicate well and are all working together with a common purpose;
- to encourage our pupils to consider moral and spiritual values, to understand their place in the world and to develop a spirit of service within the community;
- to equip our pupils with the skills to be happy in their success at Ipswich School and beyond.

Admission

Admission to the school is on the basis of interviews and tests, as per our admissions policy. Admission to boarding is dependent on the availability of appropriate dormitory/ study bedroom accommodation. It is the school's policy to ensure equitable treatment for all pupils, both in terms of admission and when at the school.

Boarding pupils are fully integrated with day pupils during the school day – they share the same tutor groups and Houses and they do not return to their Houses at lunchtime. Their communal life as boarders takes place before and after school and, in the case of full boarders, at weekends.

Most pupils at Ipswich School are day pupils, and lessons are concentrated into a five-day week. This period is therefore more intensive than at schools that have lessons and compulsory activities on six or seven days a week. For full boarders, the weekends provide an essential time for relaxation as well as for completing PSC and participating in activities such as music practice, sport or drama.

Statement of Boarding Principles and Practice



IPSWICH SCHOOL

The Houses

There are three boarding houses: Westwood for boys in Years 7-13, Anglesea (Girls) for girls in Years 7-13 and Anglesea (Sixth Form) predominantly for Year 13 boys and girls.

Our Year 12 and 13 boarders have single study rooms, children in Years 7-11 will share a bedroom with up to two others, each having their own desk to work at and storage cupboards and drawers.

All meals and lessons are in School. However, each house has designated areas where boarders can prepare food, study quietly, practice their musical instruments and socialise. We provide kettles, rice boilers, steamers, air fryers, microwaves, toasters and toastie machines, so there is no need for boarders to buy any cooking equipment. Boarders are not allowed to prepare food in their own rooms.

Houses are protected at all times by fire alarms, and at night by intruder alarms, as well as combination locks on all external doors.

Westwood is located a short walk from the main school site and has pleasant surroundings of lawns and woodlands.

It has an all-weather sports pitch. Junior boys live in the main house, a Victorian mansion that has been converted into boarding accommodation and extended. The Deputy Head Pastoral (including Head of Boarding) and her family have their accommodation in the main building and are easy to contact (by phone or intercom) should the need arise. The older boys (Years 12 & 13) have study bedrooms in two self-contained buildings (Westwood 1 and Westwood 2) close to the main house. The main house also has a large dining area and kitchen, TV area, communal study areas and recreation areas. There is also a room for meeting with duty staff, and a study for the Head of Boarding or other duty members of staff.

Anglesea (Girls) house was recently converted to provide top quality accommodation for our female boarders.

Situated directly opposite the main school site, our girls have a very short commute to school. In the house there is a large central space with an area for the girls to socialise and make food and drinks. There are two members of staff who live in the house who provide overnight supervision and medical care.

Statement of Boarding Principles and Practice



IPSWICH SCHOOL

Anglesea (Sixth Form) house is also situated opposite the school. This is a modern house with all the rooms being single study rooms and the majority of them are ensuite.

The sixth form house brings together Year 13s at a vital stage in their school career. These boarders go through key experiences - mock exams, UCAS application and their A Levels - at the same time, so the house staff can create the right environment in the house to best support them. 'Outduction' from boarding school to life beyond, is carried out by the house parent and is delivered through house meetings. There are two members of staff who live in the house who provide overnight supervision and medical care.

Statement of Boarding Principles and Practice



IPSWICH SCHOOL

Supervision

Supervision of pupils is organised and monitored by the Deputy Head Pastoral (including Head of Boarding) and Deputy Head of Boarding. There is a member of staff on duty in the houses everyday and houseparents on duty each breakfast and suppertime, as well as being on call overnight. At weekends, there is a member of staff on duty, in the houses and one in the near vicinity.

As well as supervising the pupils and safeguarding their welfare, the boarding house staff have a responsibility for promoting pupils' personal development and academic progress. These duties are shared with staff in the day school, where key personnel include the Headmaster and Deputy Head Pastoral (who is also the Designated Safeguarding Head), the Chaplain, the School Nurse, Heads of Lower School, Middle School and Sixth Form, Heads of House and Tutors. Staff are issued with job descriptions, and there is a Staff Handbook which sets out expectations in a wide range of situations. International students (even those over 18 years old) whose parents are abroad for long periods of time, are offered a place at Ipswich School on the condition that they have a suitable academic guardian in the UK. The guardian must be AEGIS registered or have a long standing relationship with the School as a guardian.

Boarders are expected to follow the House Rules, as well as the School's Code of Conduct, which promotes high standards of behaviour. We firmly believe that pupils deserve respect from each other and from staff, and that they should be happy at School. We therefore take a strong line on bullying; this is reinforced in Life Skills lessons and assemblies. The School works hard to promote an anti-bullying culture; pupils are encouraged to report bullying and to do all they can to prevent it. They can expect support from staff who will follow up allegations vigorously and take appropriate action.

Pupils with particular dietary requests, or who wish to follow cultural or religious practice that is not built into school life, are encouraged to express their requests directly to their Matrons who will make every effort to address these requests.

The School has a Complaints and Appeals procedure which is displayed in the Houses and made available to any pupil or parent via the School's website. Details of the School's Independent Listener, The Children's Commissioner and Childline are posted on notice boards around the houses and are in the boarding handbooks.

Academic progress, involvement in extracurricular events and personal development are closely monitored by the School and reported to parents as well as pupils on a regular basis. Personal contact with parents is welcomed. Parents are encouraged to email boarding staff about any boarding issues and they can expect a reply within 24 hours. Further details about the School are available in the Prospectus and on the School's website:

www.ipswich.school.

Reviewed February 2025