

Statement of Boarding Principles and Practice

Rossall School is a boarding and day school. Our pastoral care is based upon a House system. There are eight boarding houses and 1 day house. The house provides the base for students during the school day, each having a place in their house where they can safely keep their belongings. In Year 6-9 boarders will usually share a room with a number of other pupils. In Year 10 they will usually have either a double or single room, while the great majority of Sixth Form pupils have single rooms. Upper Sixth Formers may use their rooms during private study lessons.

The aim of boarding at Rossall is that the boarders are able to benefit from the very full educational experience during the school week whilst also being able to enjoy their weekends by participating in a range of optional or compulsory activities. The boarding houses are all places in which the support boarders receive, during the day or night, is an extension of the care they would experience at home. Boarding also provides an evening routine where pupils can complete their prep in a supervised environment. The house based tutor system means that your son or daughter receives one on one support from his/her tutor regularly. Perhaps the greatest benefit pupils receive from boarding is friendship. The blend of family, friends, independence and structure serves most pupils very well.

The health and welfare of the boarders is paramount and Rossall School has well established pastoral and medical procedures to ensure that they receive the best possible care. The Medical Centre is open during the school day where the School Doctor holds regular clinics. Medical assistance is available after hours in Fleetwood or Blackpool. Each house holds regular fire practices and the Health and Safety Officer and Fire Wardens conduct regular checks of all fire fighting equipment. There is an independent School Counsellor available as well as the School Chaplain for advice and support, and the number for Childline is prominently displayed in each house. There is a School procedure for pupil complaints and this is also on display in each boarding house. The School has a very clear anti-bullying policy and works tirelessly to educate pupils about tolerance, understanding, mutual respect and the compromise required to live in a boarding house. Both the complaints and anti-bullying policies are on the school website or available as a hard copy from Reception. The School takes its safeguarding and welfare responsibilities very seriously and all staff receive regular training and updates. The School's Child Protection policy is available on the School's website.

The School Handbook is updated annually and contains an explanation of School Sanctions. All Sanctions awarded in House should be in accordance with School/House Policy and should be recorded in the House Disciplinary Book. This log is checked regularly by the Deputy Headmaster. Sanctions are applied consistently across all boarding houses and each house has an agreed list of major and minor misdemeanours, with suggested sanctions, in

their house handbook for reference. No sanctions are of a physical nature or humiliating or degrading.

Students are placed in houses on the basis of family links but the final decision will also depend upon other factors such as balancing the ability and background of boys and girls in each house. Some students may begin as a day boy or girl in a boarding house and then transfer to boarding upon parental request to the Houseparents.

Each house is led and managed by a Houseparent who has a Deputy Houseparent and a team of tutors to assist them. Sixth Formers are routinely given the opportunity to help and support younger pupils through the prefect system or through running teams for house competitions. The Houseparent leads and manages the House and he or she is the first point of contact for parents for any advice or guidance.

As well as the School Council and the Food Committee (both open to all students) there is a Boarders' Council, comprising representatives of each boarding house. Both these bodies meet regularly and the Deputy Headmaster attends the meetings.

The strength of the boarding house system is through establishing a very clear identity, a physical place in which the boys and girls feel a sense of belonging and are valued. Throughout their time at the School they will be supported and encouraged within this environment without condition. The House is a place in which the values of the School are communicated and reinforced. The boys and girls represent their houses in a variety of activities such as sport, drama, debating, music and many others.

The boarding houses offer a high standard of facilities and residential care in a School which possesses all the advantages of a boarding and day school on the same site. Each boarding house has brew rooms, games rooms and a TV room, while boarders also have regular evening access to the sports fields and astroturf (when light), the Gym, Fives Courts, Fitness Room and Swimming Pool. There is also WiFi access in the majority of boarders' rooms and limited, controlled access to networking websites.

Rossall is perhaps unusual in that it has a restaurant on-site and students can use this facility three times per week when it is open. In addition the Sixth Form Lounge, newly completed, is a room to relax in and to become acquainted with other students from over 30 nationalities.

For students who wish to find use it, the Sumner Library is open every night of the week during prep, and for three hours on a Saturday morning.

The strength of the house system is evident not just in the care which is offered to each student, but in a place where each student is valued as an individual. Beyond Rossall the friendships made in each House endure for many years, if not for life.