



Statement of Boarding Principles and Practice

Leighton Park aims to develop students who will have a positive impact on the world and will strive to reach their maximum potential by inspiring achievement with values, character, and community. The aim is to create an atmosphere that is comfortable, caring, inclusive, and reflects the aims and Quaker ethos of the school and the British boarding context. The health, safety and welfare of the students is paramount. The boarding House is a place where all students should feel safe and valued in a warm, homely environment where the diversity of cultures and backgrounds can be shared, celebrated and respected

The rules in the boarding houses are kept to a minimum but those that do exist are for the safety and wellbeing of the students. All students are expected to make a positive contribution to the life of the boarding house.

Leighton Park believes that all students benefit from a boarding education by belonging to a community that is their house and from the guidance of their house team they will grow into independent learners, who will cope with an ever-changing world. In line with our Quaker values the boarding community will work with every student to develop:

- Confidence and independence
- A sense of community spirit
- Social skills and Social responsibility
- Cultural awareness and respect for others
- Self-motivation
- Honesty and integrity
- Respect for the environment
- An appreciation of simplicity

In the words of George Fox founder of the Religious Society of Friends:

"Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come, that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone."
George Fox, 1656

Organisation

All boarding students at Leighton Park are housed in one of the School's three boarding houses. Each of the houses may include flexi boarders (where space permits), weekly boarders and full boarders who can integrate fully into the boarding life of the school.

The junior house, Fryer, is for our year 7 and 8 day students, along with some Y7 - Y9 boarders. The House cares for boarding girls and boys in segregated boarding areas on the upper floor of the house. The House has day space for all students and designated space for boarding students only.

The two senior boarding houses are Reckitt and School. Reckitt is the senior girls house where girls from Y10 to U6 live. School is the senior boys house where boys from Y10 to U6 live. The communal ground floor facilities are available for day students who may sign up for a prep space in the evenings, referred to as wrap around care (WAC). The houses have central facilities including games rooms and common rooms.

Each boarding house team is led by a Housemaster or Housemistress (HM). In addition, each house has a boarding team to assist the HM, consisting of a Deputy HM, Senior Resident Tutor, Resident Tutor(s) and the support of a Boarding Experience Manager and a Graduate.

Whilst each House is unique in its style, atmosphere and architecture, there is also a strong feeling of commonality and parity amongst all the houses and to this end a weekly Boarding Management Team meeting takes place with the Senior Deputy Head, Head of Boarding and Housemasters/Housemistresses, where issues and concerns are shared and discussed.

All boarding students are either full boarders, weekly boarders or flexi boarders. It is possible to move between the three categories, where there is availability, and applications for a change of status should be made in writing at the earliest opportunity. A small number of day students make use of the opportunity to participate in a very limited amount of flexi-boarding.

Author:	Alexander Leighton, Head of Boarding
Review:	Edward Falshaw, Senior Deputy Head
Sign off:	Luke Walters, Head
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