



OUNDLE

School

Statement of Boarding Principles and Practice

Aims and Organisation

Oundle School exists to provide the best possible education to boys and girls. The entire ethos of the School is based on the idea of a twenty-four-hour day and seven-day week. Much of the pupil development and enrichment stems from this and from the fact that a large majority of the staff and their families live in the town of Oundle.

Almost every member of the teaching staff is involved in the life of a House. New pupils arrive at the School aged eleven in the case of The Berrystead and Laxton, but predominantly at the age of thirteen. All these pupils, and additionally those joining at other stages, find themselves in a safe and stimulating environment, with a highly experienced, enthusiastic pastoral team on hand to encourage, supervise and protect. As they progress through their Houses, pupils are challenged to take on increasing responsibility for the care and leadership of others. In all Houses there are excellent arrangements for study with designated 'quiet times' and supervised prep.

There is a structured weekend programme and social events for all ages, from discos to formal dinners and from paintballing expeditions to day trips away. Pupils are allowed home at times other than official Exeats if parents and Housemasters or Housemistresses (Hsms) think it wise. Despite this flexibility, as a School with a full boarding ethos, pupils are expected to be in School except when there are specific family celebrations or special events. Parental involvement is welcomed and encouraged. Parent Receptions are held for all year-groups on an annual basis. These occasions allow formal discussion of academic progress but also provide an opportunity for invaluable contact between parents, pupils and tutors and the chance to assess all aspects of each pupil's life at Oundle. E-mail and telephone allow parents to be in frequent contact with their children and those who look after them. Tutors are asked to contact parents of their tutees shortly after the beginning of each academic year and as appropriate thereafter.

Facilities

Each Boarding House has the normal capacity to accommodate between 58 and 65 pupils. All except the junior boarding house, The Berrystead, are single sex. Pupils are largely accommodated in study bedrooms and the majority are in single or double rooms. Almost all boarding pupils have single rooms by the time they enter the Upper Sixth. Each house has its own range of public/recreational facilities.

Pupil Welfare and Support

The School is committed to promoting and safeguarding the physical and mental health and emotional wellbeing of its pupils, with a strong commitment to individualised care and early intervention if pupils are struggling for any reason. The pastoral care of pupils is the responsibility of the Hsm. He or she will have a Deputy Hsm (resident or otherwise) and a resident Matron to assist with the care of pupils, and a further six or seven Tutors who assist in duties and in the tutoring of pupils. The Health Centre is staffed 24 hours a day. The broader pastoral team includes staff in the Chaplaincy, the Emotional Wellbeing Team and two Independent Listeners. Hsms, Tutors and Matrons have considerable experience and are able to deal sympathetically and confidently with any temporary difficulties a pupil may meet. Alternatively pupils may choose to turn for support from other pupils or staff and this is the advantage and strength of the Oundle School community.

The School is committed to upholding the place of Christian worship within the community while respecting members of other faiths; and offering a high quality education to children from a diverse range of social, ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds.

November 2015, reviewed September 2020