

# Statement of Boarding Principles

The key aim of the Bruern Abbey boarding house is to create a fun, nurturing environment in which boys feel they are both valued and respected. We aim to create an atmosphere in which the boarders' happiness and personal development is paramount. We believe that the boarding experience should not only compliment the School day but also be constructive, by helping boys to develop their individuality, independence and give them the skills they need to make a successful transition into their senior schools boarding environment.

Therefore, we believe that the individual personality of each boarder should be encouraged to flourish and develop in its own way, unfettered by preconceived or stereotyped notions. So in each stage of boarding, from junior to senior we uphold the ethos set out in the Behaviour Policy which states that the boys:

- are encouraged to respect themselves and others around them
- maintain a respect for Bruern's environment and the belongings of others
- demonstrate consistent good manners to all members of staff and pupils at all times
- support a purposeful and constructive learning environment by ensuring pupils receive the correct amount of sleep
- consider the safety of others
- foster moral, spiritual, social and emotional development
- develop self-discipline in accepting sanctions

Central to our boarding community are friendship and respect between persons, whether staff or fellow boarders. Friendship and respect in turn create an atmosphere of trust within which the communication of values is made easier. Through this communication boarders learn to value each other for their distinctive characteristics and differences, which are not merely tolerated but prized.

As well as this the boarding community is encouraged to understand the cognitive benefits of obtaining a good night's sleep. This ethos is grounded in recent research in to the effects of good sleep on the "learning brain" and is also supported by NHS guidelines. At Bruern Abbey School boarders have an opportunity to develop and unlock their talents, whether these are musical, academic, sporting or lie elsewhere.

We believe that all boys have a right to grow up at Bruern Abbey School in an atmosphere free from teasing, bullying, intimidation and abuse. We therefore aim to create an open and trusting environment in which every boarder knows that he may approach a member of staff confident in the knowledge that he will be listened to sympathetically and respectfully, and that his concerns will be addressed appropriately.

The boarding team receive training in all aspects of safeguarding children, are alert to children's vulnerabilities. This is especially applicable in residential settings where risks of harm, and knowing how to implement safeguarding children procedures are integral to day-to-day working practices.

Bruern Abbey School is *home from home* for children during the week: their views and concerns are listened to, and responded to using both formal and informal means. Integral to the running of the boarding House is the relationship between boarding staff and parents. Parents are, therefore, encouraged to discuss their concerns or raise questions either formally or informally at the many occasions when they visit the School: during formal suppers, or when they come to pick up or drop off their son at visiting times.

We aim to provide an environment that is, as far as is reasonably possible, free from physical hazards and dangers of any sort in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of each boarder. With this in mind each dormitory elects a member of the Bruern Boarding Council (BBC) and they meet at least once a term with the Housemaster to discuss issues raised by their dormitories and boarding in general.