



## Boarding Principles and Practice

### Boarding Principles

Haileybury is a school committed to boarding, with an emphasis on community values and on developing responsibility, teamwork, leadership and independence. We are a school of 820 pupils, c.500 of whom are boarders. To achieve these aims we understand that pupils need to feel happy and secure in the boarding environment.

Housemasters and Housemistresses (HMs) have a vital role to play in supporting these principles. They do so by fostering good values, promoting opportunities for teamwork, leadership and self-improvement and by encouraging pupils to take responsibility and develop independence.

### Boarding Practice

Boarding policies and protocols are reviewed regularly against the backdrop of the National Minimum Standards for boarding schools <http://www.boarding.org.uk/pages/bsanstandard>. There are opportunities for all staff with boarding responsibilities to make a contribution to this process, through the Continuing Professional Development programme, weekly house tutors' meetings and the biennial House Audit.

There is a regular pattern of meetings at which boarding and pastoral issues are raised and discussed. The whole teaching staff meets each Tuesday at The Half (mid-morning break); HMs have a briefing meeting with the Master and key members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) each Monday at The Half; there are also regular HMs' committee meetings which include the Master, the Deputy Master, the Deputy Head (Academic), the Bursar, and the Chaplain.

Entrants into Main School (those aged 13+ and including those transferring from the Lower School - years 7 and 8) join one of 12 boarding houses. These are communities of approximately 60, in which pupils between 13 and 18 years old live together in modern or recently updated surroundings which provide comfortable personal space, while simultaneously generating a strong sense of communal living and nurturing self-reliance and resourcefulness.

Housemasters and Housemistresses (HMs) are carefully selected senior staff and are responsible for the welfare of each boy and girl in their care; they live alongside their charges ensuring ready, natural and easy contact for all parties. HMs are assisted by a team of tutors who each have special responsibility for a small group (10 to 12) of pupils; one tutor is also resident within the boarding house. Furthermore, all houses have a Day Matron whose role is both pastoral and domestic. Additional support is provided by the Deputy Master, Senior Master, the Proctor and the Heads of Section. Mutually supportive relationships involving pupils, their parents, the tutor and the HM are central to the success of a Haileybury education.

The House is both home and a workplace for all pupils during their school years. It is a place where long-term friendships are forged, where successes and disappointments can be shared and where consideration for others and loyalty is nurtured. Academic monitoring, reporting and administration are dealt with by tutors and HMs who provide advice and support on issues as varied as subject choices and university applications to extra-curricular activities and relationships. Heads of Section take an overview of all matters relating to their section and support tutors and HMs with various issues such as academic performance.

There is no 'flexi' or weekly boarding in the Main School at Haileybury, though these options are available to Lower School pupils. As at most full-boarding schools, lessons are taught on Saturday mornings while on Saturday afternoons there is an extensive programme of sports fixtures and cultural activities. On all but two Saturdays each term (designated 'non-exeat' weekends) boarders may return to their homes after their afternoon commitment is complete. A Chapel service for boarders takes place on a number of Sundays at 9.00 pm. There is no pressure on boarders to remain after Saturday afternoon activities nor is there any expectation that they should depart. The school continues to operate as usual and a full and enlightened weekend programme is in place to provide opportunities for social activity on Saturday evenings and on Sundays, both on site and away from it.

All boarding Houses will have a limited number of day pupils within them and they are welcomed on an understanding that they are supportive of the school's boarding ethos. Interestingly, a number of boys and girls begin their Haileybury career as day pupils before transferring to boarding.

*Reviewed SLT - February 2018*

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*To be reviewed by Deputy Master and Pastoral Group Autumn 2018*