



Heath Mount School

Boarding Policy and Statement of Boarding Principles

Heath Mount provides flexible overnight accommodation on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights during term time for pupils in Year 3 to Year 8. The School is committed to the belief that all pupils should enjoy the right to a happy, safe, and fulfilling experience regardless of race, gender or gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, disability, background, age, special educational need, academic or sporting ability.

The Heath Mount boarding community is made up of one girls' and one boys' house. Heath Mount's boarding ethos is to prepare pupils for senior boarding schools as well as offering a flexible, supportive, and convenient service to busy families in a warm, family led environment. The Boarding Team offer a stimulating array of evening activities and opportunities for our pupils, led by dedicated and enthusiastic staff.

Boarding at Heath Mount School is guided by the following principles:

- We aim for all our boarders to have a successful and enriching boarding experience.
- Boarding enables pupils to be part of a diverse boarding community which has a foundation built on understanding, acceptance and inclusion.
- All our boarders are well known to the boarding team and the staff develop strong relationships with the children, parents and the main school staff. This helps staff ensure a boarder feels happy and secure and has the confidence to thrive.
- Boarders are encouraged to develop their independence and self-reliance whilst being able to make mistakes in a safe and nurturing environment.
- The boarding team at Heath Mount want all boarders to feel that the boarding houses are their 'home from home' whilst having a sense of belonging. All boarders should feel comfortable, safe and happy without fear of bullying.
- Boarding at Heath Mount can also provide a stable structured routine and environment to pupils whose home life may be disrupted by factors beyond their control.

In practice, these principles are implemented in the following ways:

- All boarders are supported by the House Staff to ensure they take responsibility for their own belongings and have carried out all tasks on time, such as placing their washing into the washing baskets.
- Boarders are encouraged to complete their homework during supervised prep sessions where the boarding team are on hand to help. Should a boarder need more time to complete prep or practice a music instrument, they are encouraged to liaise with the boarding team who will help them manage their routine to ensure they get time to play and complete their work.



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- All boarders are encouraged to take on leadership tasks during boarding. This could be in the form of being a new boarders 'boarding buddy', showing them where to go and at what time and helping them settle in. Older boarders are also encouraged to help the younger boarders, reading them a story before lights out and by setting a good example.
- Heath Mount is committed to providing outstanding pastoral care for its boarders. To do this, House Staff are selected by their ability to demonstrate empathy, understanding of the individual and their willingness to contribute to the boarding community. All boarding staff are encouraged to continue their professional development through courses and CPD.
- A consistent routine and approach is followed by both boarding houses and boarders are made aware of any upcoming changes.
- Boarders are encouraged to express their feelings about the running of the boarding houses, suggesting improvements and giving feedback on elements of their routine that they really enjoy. Boarders can express these views through the termly questionnaires, by speaking to a member of House Staff or by leaving a message in the suggestion/worry box. All views are taken on board and feedback from questionnaires is displayed in both boarding houses.

Review Date: April 2024