

# Godstowe

## *Boarding Policy*

### Statement of boarding principles

Reviewed  
September  
2024

Godstowe School offers boarding accommodation for pupils between the ages of 7 and 13 within the comfortable surroundings of three, well maintained separate houses; Turner and Walker for Years 6, 7 and 8 and Highlands for the Years 4, 5 and 6. Each house has its own gardens, kitchens, homely bedrooms and dedicated, specific staffing. All the houses are scheduled, in the school's five year plan, to have a programme of improvements and enhancements. Redecoration, carpeting, shower upgrades, new furniture and replacement windows are just some of the projects undertaken over the last few years.

Boarding could be described as the nucleus of the school. Pupils are cared for by three teams of very experienced and appropriately qualified staff, all of whom live on the school premises. They are strongly supported and supervised by the Headmistress who is an important part of the boarding community. One of the Housemistresses is also the Assistant Deputy Head Boarding and Head of Boarding.

Pupils are encouraged to board in the belief that it has justification in its own right. We believe the environment is further enriched by the addition of an international presence in the houses, something of which we and they are very proud. Boarders are exposed to a whole range of activities, clubs and cultural pastimes as well as having access to the excellent facilities of the school and its staff.

Generally, our boarders want to be boarders. They realise the benefits to their overall development, education and growing up as individuals. Pupils learn a sense of independence, reliance on the goodwill of others and an understanding of others and their needs. They appreciate how to live together as a genuinely happy boarding community.

We are dedicated to their needs, not only as a community, but as individuals bearing in mind their home circumstances, their interests, their personal development and their desire to derive as much satisfaction from boarding at Godstowe as they can.

After school, staff priority is the boarders. Arrangements are designed to offer them an environment as close to "home-from-home" as possible. We provide support for homework, offer after school activities to appeal to a wide range of interests and an after supper programme which includes time for the boarders to play; to be active; to be inactive; to learn; to enquire; to do things they want to do; and, sometimes, just to be themselves!

The proportion of those who board at Godstowe is significant and we often give them priority in our planning. Boarders give the school its life after the day girls have gone home. Numerous staff involved with boarders devote their time to our boarders in a way we would expect parents to at home.

Godstowe is committed to the future of boarding, in a friendly and very homely environment. Remember, boarders have friends on tap; staff on tap; enjoyment on tap. The way in which their development thrives on the boarding experience is there for everyone to see. To parents and pupils, we say "Join the fun".