

STATEMENT OF BOARDING PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

St Christopher School has a long tradition of boarding and has a thriving, friendly boarding community which feels like a home away from home. Our boarders come from all over the world, creating a diverse and welcoming community where friendships are made that will last for many years.

There are two boarding houses: Arundale, in the main School building, for students from Years 7 to 11, and Arunside, on the edge of the School campus, which is our dedicated Sixth Form boarding house for students in Years 12 and 13.

The School is unusual amongst mainstream boarding schools in having "houseparents" rather than "housemasters and housemistresses".

The choice of terminology is deliberate, as is the employment of both partners. The aim of the School is to support a homely, welcoming and inclusive environment for all of our boarders. Houseparents provide the caring oversight associated with the active role of a good parent, supporting pupils during their time at the School.

Houseparents are in regular contact with a student's teachers, advisors and heads of year, to ensure that academic and pastoral care are carefully co-ordinated, and to the highest standard.

All boarding is co-educational with guidance and rules to ensure privacy. In Arundale, bedrooms are separated into different areas of the building for girls and boys. There are a number of common room spaces and boarders have access to many of the School's main facilities in the evening.

Boarding allows students to experience a communal life. They develop a capacity for tolerance, self-sufficiency and independence that will serve them well in later life. They learn the relationship between rights and responsibilities and the balance between individuality and being part of a community.

Richard Palmer
Head