



PORT·REGIS

Boarding Principles and Practice

The very best pastoral care in a warm, supportive, and empowering environment is at the heart of boarding at Port Regis. We are a community made up of boarders (and their parents) and excellent, professional house staff who always have the wellbeing of their boarders at the forefront of their minds.

Childhood should be carefree and joyous but with just enough challenge to prepare children for the adversity, risks and opportunities that life will inevitably bring. The Port Regis boarding community is housed in two senior self-contained boarding houses with the younger boarders living cosily in the Mansion. These comfortable, homely spaces are at the centre of rambling parkland with lawns, forests, and wild areas. This is just the place for boarders to develop creativity, courage, adventure, fellowship, and friendship, combining the freedom to thrive with a sense of firm and loving support.

Because boarding should be like home, Port Regis houseparents and housemothers care for the children as they would their own. We know our boarders well and work hard at parenting them every day. We listen when they want to talk, we are there when they are working or playing, we support them when they are fearful or unwell and we celebrate when they have a success.

We passionately believe that children need space to grow and learn from mistakes, as well as successes, and we deal with any problems proportionately, with kindness and understanding. The children have many different people to talk to if they have a worry, including our medical facility at the heart of the Mansion. We run the houses with fair and sensible boundaries based on safety and respect. This helps the boarders to learn to look after themselves and each other, to be kind and courteous to children and adults alike and to grow up into well-balanced generous individuals.

Communication with parents is key to a successful and happy boarder. We are a family school and we want families to feel that we are on this journey together. We believe it is essential for parents to ask questions and to share minor worries before they become major and, in the same spirit, to share information with us that will help us keep their child safe and content.

For staff at Port Regis, the wellbeing and safety of the children is paramount. In boarding. We strive to provide a strong foundation of community, wellbeing and friendship, with the children making many happy and joyous memories along the way.

Our vision for our boarders is that they:

- Feel safe and cared for;
- Become independent individuals;
- Thrive mentally and physically;
- Develop resilience;
- Develop a love for boarding and their school;
- Learn to support each other;
- Make lasting friendships;
- Grow in confidence;
- Learn communicate effectively and with empathy;
- Live out the Port Regis values.

Our Boarding staff undertake to:

- Feel a genuine empathy and a liking for all the children in their care;
- Positively recognise and create opportunities for good behaviour;
- Feel that they can make a difference;
- Challenge themselves and their practice;
- Seek continual professional development;
- Embrace change with optimism and enthusiasm;
- Maintain their knowledge of the National Minimum Boarding Standards and Safeguarding practice;
- Maintain the highest levels of pastoral care and attention;
- Support colleagues and each other professionally;
- Uphold a sense of community;
- Have fun;
- Support the houseparent on duty;
- Show and practise a genuine warmth and love for the boarders;
- Model good behaviours at all times;
- Uphold Port Regis values.

We want our gap students to...

- Support the houseparent and housemother on duty;
- Show and practise a genuine warmth and liking for the boarders;
- Have an understanding of the difference they make;
- Keep up to date with regular NMS updates and training;
- To be a role model for good behaviour and promote positive behaviour at all times;
- Uphold Port Regis values.

As a School in partnership with the wider parent body and community, we endeavour to support our boarders. To achieve this, we will:

- Attend weekly wellbeing meetings to discuss welfare of children and implement strategies to support them;
- Hold weekly meetings between the School Nurse, the Head of Boarding, Heads of Lower and Middle Schools, LS Staff and the Deputy Head Pastoral to discuss pastoral support in the key sections of the school;
- Hold parent representative meetings to establish the wider needs of the school;
- Deliver assemblies to support the PSHE curriculum and help to embed the values of Port Regis;
- Liaise with boarding staff over matters arising such as prep, lost property and personal organisation;
- Support boarding with key staff, who do a weekly boarding duty;
- To introduce take my tutor 'HOME' evenings from September, to see the boarding house and how they live;
- Remember as staff, we are a boarding school, which is at the heart of everything we do;
- Endeavour to improve communication in all that we do;
- Uphold the school values and to be part of the changing of our culture to one of love, empathy and understanding for each other;
- Try, where possible, to work together as a partnership between school and community.

Our School Values and how the children demonstrate them:

We asked the boarders how they see themselves playing an active role in demonstrating our values and this is what they said...

Joy means... drinking hot chocolate, laughing and playing with friends, helping each other, playing dodgeball, playing laser tag, seeing people try something new and being kind and giving hugs.

Courage means... having the courage to ask for help, having the courage to try something new at lunch, saying no to behaviour we know is wrong, standing up for people and what you believe in.

Creativity means... making Macmillan T-shirts, decorating our dorms, putting on fashion shows, houseparents making a new common room, and listening to a story in story time.

Endeavour means... trying hard because there are obstacles in life, not giving up, endeavouring to keep our rooms tidy, work hard and trying new things.

Generosity means... sharing our belongings, giving up our time for others, helping someone, the staff showing us kindness, the kitchen staff preparing us meals, and just giving someone a hug.