



## **MOWDEN HALL SCHOOL**

### **BOARDING POLICY**

#### **RATIONALE:**

At Mowden Hall School we aim to provide a warm, friendly and caring boarding environment that reflects the atmosphere and ethos of home. This policy provides an overview of the arrangements for boarding at Mowden.

#### **OVERVIEW:**

Children can be Full Boarders, Weekly Boarders, Flexi Boarders or Day Pupils. Children are able to transfer from being Day Pupils to Boarders at any stage, as long as there is space in the Boarding House. Any changes to boarding status should be shared with the School Office.

We have two boarding houses at Mowden, Oak House is the boarding house for boys and Elm House is the boarding house for girls. Both of the Boarding Houses are in the Main School Building and are separated by the Boarding House Sitting Room. The dorms in each house are named after geographical places in Northumberland. Children are generally grouped together in the dorms by age and it is not unusual for year groups to be combined. Children are allocated dorms by the Housemistress. The Housemistress, where possible, aims to rotate the dorming plans each term so that all boarders have an opportunity to experience time in different dorms. The Housemistress bases dorming plans on numbers of boarders and availability of bedspace. Every effort is made to listen to the views of both children and parents. This notwithstanding, it is not always possible to accommodate individual requests.

#### **AIMS:**

- To ensure that each individual boarder feels genuinely cared for
- To ensure that each individual boarder feels safe and secure
- To encourage friendships and develop skills whereby boarders can live together happily and harmoniously.
- To provide a relaxed, family environment
- To provide facilities that are clean, modern and cheerful.

#### **REWARDS AND SANCTIONS:**

We use a system of noughts and crosses to reward and sanction the children on their behaviour in the house. Each dorm has a sheet outside it listing the pupils in the dorm and boxes to fill with the noughts and crosses. They receive noughts for being helpful, cooperative, being kind and considerate etc. They receive crosses for not being co-operative, unhelpful, inconsiderate, talking after lights out etc. Every half a term the noughts are added for the dorm (taking an average per person from the full and weekly boarders) and the winning dorm receives a Dorm Prize. So far these have included a movie and pizza night, free swim and picnic and a pizza making night. These can be arranged in consultation with the Housemistress. Poor behaviour is

written in a centralised communication book and followed up the next day by the relevant member of staff. Please refer to the Behaviour Policy for further information.

**NEW BOARDER INDUCTION:**

When a pupil starts boarding they receive a Boarders Handbook for Pupils and their parents receive a Boarders Handbook for Parents. The pupils use their handbook as a reference guide. It explains many of the systems and routines in place. A tick-list on the back of the handbook supports the induction process.

On their first night of boarding, new pupils are shown fire exit routes – both exit one and two. The pupils are also shown how to call for a member of staff in the night if needed.

**PREFECTS:**

Each year group has a boy and girl Boarding House Prefect. Boarding House Prefects are appointed by the Headmaster following discussion with senior members of staff and the Housemistress. Boarding House Prefects are role models for other boarding pupils and as such are expected to demonstrate an understanding of the school objectives in relation to boarding and support the ethos of the Boarding House. They are able to advise and help new boarders on matters relating to boarding life at Mowden. The Boarding House Prefects meet with the Housemistress once a term and put forward boarders' suggestions with regards to boarding life.

**BOARDING HOUSE AGREEMENT:**

Mowden boarders, supported by the Housemistress, produced a list of agreements for conduct within the Boarding House. This is included in the boarding handbooks and is also displayed on the large notice board outside the Matron's Sitting Room.

**CHILD WELFARE AND PROTECTION:**

Mowden Hall aims to provide the very best care for the pupils entrusted to us. We aim to ensure that every pupil is happy at school and feels that they have a productive part to play in the boarding house and in the school. All staff at the school are given regular training in Child Protection matters. All pupils are encouraged to speak to a member of the boarding house staff, a member of the Senior Management Team, the School Nurse or any member of staff if they have a problem or become aware of another pupil who has a problem.

Relevant phone numbers for Mowden's Independent School Listener, Child Line, the Children's Commissioner, Children's Services and The Samaritans are detailed in the Boarding Handbook but also displayed prominently on the noticeboard outside the Matron's Sitting Room.