SAFEGUARDING OF BOARDERS

Cranleigh School recognises that, under the terms of Section 87 of The Children's Act (1989) - Welfare of Children Accommodated in Independent Schools - the school has a statutory duty to safeguard and promote a child's welfare by ensuring protection against significant harm or neglect. This statutory duty of care is geared to the individual child, not to the majority, and recognises each child's right to live his or her life free from abuse of any type. Every child has the right to develop academically, socially, morally and culturally in an atmosphere of encouragement and trust.

Arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of boarders while they are accommodated at the school and such arrangements have regard to the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools.

The Children's Act applies to all children who are accommodated at school, not just the boarders who are ordinarily resident.

Day pupils are accommodated within the boarding house environment and are in school for long hours, often well into the evening. They work in the boarding house, they get changed for sport in the boarding house, they often shower in the boarding house. Additionally, day pupils will on occasion, if there is space in a dorm, board for an evening. Therefore, we apply safeguarding standards universally.

Additional Safeguarding Risk to boarders from adults

The unique nature of boarding may mean that a child is at a greater risk of contact with an adult in a position of power, and at times outside of the working day. We put additional rules in place around adults' access to boarding houses and child access to staff residential accommodation.

Please read the following policies that deal with this:

Pupil access to Staff Residential Accommodation

Adults staying in boarding houses at Cranleigh School

Boarding House Risk Assessments

Visitors to Boarding Houses

Tutors on duty follow strict guidelines around respecting boarders' personal space, knocking on doors and asking if they can open them, before doing so.

Please see **Tutor Handbooks**

The informal nature of adults working in a boarding house means that tutors are at additional risk of placing themselves in a situation where the Staff Code of Conduct could be compromised.

Tutors know that if any such incident occurs, they must immediately self-disclose this to the safeguarding team, who will respond to the incident and also log it on the Staff Incidents log; this enables us to identify any concerning patterns of behaviour.

Additional Safeguarding Risk of Child-on-Child Abuse

The unique nature of boarding may mean that children could be at greater risk of child-on-child abuse incidents as children share overnight accommodation.

To reduce the risk of child-on-child abuse within the Boarding House pupils are reminded frequently about the importance of respecting each other's space. Boarders are moved around half-termly/termly, depending on the year group to ensure no two children share significant time together. Boarding Houses are supervised with Matrons, a Pastoral Tutor team and 2 House staff that live onsite. Boarding Houses are secured overnight with unique entrance codes.

The areas immediately outside the Boarding Houses are not to be used as gathering/socialising places, to protect boarders' privacy.

Inappropriate sexual behaviour is covered in the Schools Convention Policy and is an example of a serious breach of discipline and behaviour and may lead to an exclusion from the school.

> Please also read the policy on:

> **Child-on-Child Abuse**

Additional risk of Online Harm to Boarders

Systems to monitor encrypted communications of all pupils, including boarders, for Safeguarding (e.g. https Google searches) are also employed so users should not assume complete privacy. All suspicious searches are flagged via our filters, monitored and followed up on a daily basis. Trends are logged for future training and support of pupils. This information is recorded on the Pastoral Module to enable us to see a bigger picture that might be emerging related to a boarder's wellbeing and safety.

All pupils (day and boarders) must adhere to the ICT Acceptable Use Policy which covers harmful content that may already be downloaded outside of school. If such an incident is identified, the school will refer to this agreement and a full investigation will follow with possible disciplinary action will take place.

Any pupil, including boarders, attempting to bypass our filters by using VPNs on our Wi-Fi system will be immediately flagged and internet usage suspended.

Mobile phones are not allowed in the 4th form. Boarders will be contactable via email or the house landline/ mobile phone that they may ask to use at any time.

Mobile phones are allowed in the other year groups; however, the rules are different for every year group, but access to mobile phones is restricted to some extent in every year group.

Mobile phones and other devices are taken in at night and stored safely in a locked cabinet, with the exception of the U6th.

Mobile phones should not be visible during the formal working day; this applies to Staff as well as Pupils.

> **See separate school policy on:**
> **Mobile Phones**
> **ICT Policy**
> **ICT Acceptable Use Policy (pupils)**

Education of Boarders on Safeguarding

All boarders attend a Safeguarding lecture every year delivered by a member of the Safeguarding Team. This enables them to recognise behaviours from both adults and other children that are not safe and to give them the confidence to report any concerns they may have.

Raise a Concern

All boarders have a Raise a Concern icon on their school iPad to enable them to report anything that concerns them. These concerns go directly to the safeguarding team and are dealt with swiftly.

All boarders also have access to the 'Who to contact?' poster on their school iPads. This provides them with access to a number of different ways to get support should they have concerns or need support. These posters are posted prominently in houses.

All boarders have access to an Independent Person (formerly known as an Independent Listener) who is available to speak to the pupils in person when in House and pupils can email the IP and the IP will signpost them to support sites (See **Independent Persons Policy**)

All boarders complete a 'Safety of Boarders' survey annually. This is anonymous and enables us to identify any patterns or locations that may compromise the safeguarding of boarders.

Gender Imbalance and Safeguarding of Boarders

Although there is a gender imbalance currently, it is not hugely significant.

There are four girls' boarding houses and four boys' boarding houses, and they are affiliated in pairs.

Any report of sexual violence or sexual harassment is taken seriously; staff are however aware that it is more likely that girls will be the victims of Sexual Violence or Sexual Harassment and more likely it will be perpetrated by boys.

Additional Risk of Sexual Relationships between Boarders

As boarders are in school for longer periods than day pupils, and as they have more contact with one another during the week, there is an additional risk of a sexual relationship developing between boarders.

Sex education, as part of relationships and sex education in secondary schools includes also the teaching about intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health, healthy sexual relationships and mutual respect, personal privacy and gender stereotypes. It also includes what the law says about sex, relationships, consent and young people, as well as pornography, broader safeguarding issues and using technology.

The school's policy on sexual relationships between children, particularly boarders, clearly states that pupils are only allowed in other boarding houses with the knowledge of a member of staff, and the proviso that they remain in the common social areas. Pupils of the opposite sex are not permitted to visit the dorms.

Boarders/day pupils are reminded of the rules regarding sexual relationships regularly; it is clear in the School Conventions that any such relationship taking place on school premises would be a serious breach of discipline and behaviour that may lead to an exclusion from the School.

When there is a risk that Boarding cannot meet Need

In rare circumstances, the Boarding environment may not be able to meet the need of a Boarder. This may involve a Boarder who is at significant risk of harm to either themselves/others or where the Medical need is not sustainable. In such cases, a Risk Assessment will be carried out by the Safeguarding Team/Medical Centre Team/House Teams and the Senior Management Team.

Following the outcome of the Risk Assessment, we will decide whether we can meet the Boarder's need, and if we can, what additional support needs to be put in place. On a rare occasion, we may reach the conclusion that the boarding environment cannot meet the Boarder's need at that time, and the Pupil may need to become a Day Pupil, for either a short or protracted period of time, depending on the circumstances. It will always be our aim to enable the Pupil to return to boarding as soon as it is safely possible. We will communicate with parents at every stage of this process.