



Day, Day Plus and Boarding FAQs

FEBRUARY 2026

Thank you for submitting your questions to us. They have been really helpful as we put together our new models for September 2026.

What's changing?

From September 2026, we will have three options for families of Cranleigh pupils: Day, Day Plus and Boarding.

Day

We are introducing a new Day model, which carries a lower fee, benchmarked against other schools. Here, pupils start school at 8.00am and return home at 5.45pm. The first wave of our Day students will be integrated into South (for girls) and East (for boys). Alongside a day room, Day pupils will share common areas of the house with the boarders, such as the main house room, moabs (house kitchens) and matron's room.

Day Plus

We have evolved our existing Day model, which we will now be calling Day Plus. From September 2026 current Day families will have the added option of one free overnight stay each week, with the option of another night, costing £100. There has been a huge amount of interest in Day Plus which tells us that there's an appetite to try out our Boarding offer, moving to become full boarders eventually, which we would be happy to see.

Boarding

Our Boarding model remains as it has done for many years. Whilst the majority of Cranleigh parents choose for their children to come home on Saturday and Sunday nights, we are a full boarding school and all current boarders can stay over the weekend, for no extra cost, if you wish. There is a thriving weekend programme for boarders to enjoy.

What are the current numbers for children signed up for the new Day model?

This is a relatively small number, which is one of the reasons why those pupils will join one of the two boarding houses we have chosen. We've chosen South and East because they are our most flexible spaces. It won't affect the feel of those boarding houses but at the same time it will mean Day pupils are well integrated into the established daily routines of each house.

How many Day pupils will there be from September 2027?

We think and hope this number will grow. There is more interest coming through every day and we anticipate that there might be around fifty additional Day pupils by September 2027. Day Plus interest is already very high for September 2028.

What will happen as numbers grow?

As the number of pupils increases, we may extend our pastoral provision and the intention is to significantly invest in the school estate by building two more houses over the next couple of years. At the moment we haven't decided whether these will be Day houses, or whether we will create new houses with a mix of Day, Day Plus and Boarding pupils. We want to see how the model evolves first, and do what is best for pupils.

Building new houses will enable us to gradually reduce the overall size of each of our boys' houses, so that every house has a comparable number of pupils within it. This will improve the quality of the pastoral care we are able to provide and allow a more balanced approach to inter-house events such as dance and sports day.

What is the main benefit of being a Day pupil?

For some pupils, it really does work best for some of them to go home at 5.45pm. One of the reasons we are considering a Day house is so that we can form a community for all the pupils who go home at the end of the day. During the initial years of this new model, we will keep a close eye on Day pupils as it's really important for every pupil, but certainly this first group for Day pupils, to feel involved in house life. As we have said, Cranleigh has always had Day pupils integrated into every house, so we feel confident that we can make this run smoothly.

How will the Day provision in East and South work?

Plans are still evolving but the plan is to have separate Day space. At the moment, Day pupils are in the dorms with the boarders. There are some benefits to that but also some drawbacks. From September 2026, Day pupils in East and South will still be near, and across the corridor from borders, but they will have their own dedicated areas with desks and lockers. Social spaces, and access to house matrons will be the same for all pupils.

Has a Day pupil ever been a Head Boy or Head Girl?

Yes, these roles have gone to Day pupils over the years. Last year, for example, our Head Girl was a Day pupil.

Can pupils change from one model to another, for instance from Boarding to Day Plus or Day after a term?

Pupils have always been able to change from Day to Boarding and we recognise that as our new models bed in, some pupils might change their minds about what they want and some families might need different support from us. We will be as flexible and transparent as possible if you tell us you would like to change.

All current Day pupils will have the benefits of Day Plus from September 2026. All current Day pupils in Year 11 (Upper Fifth) will be able to move to full boarding from September 2026. For the most part, we see a trend where pupils who have tried out our Boarding offer want to become boarders full time.

How will Day Plus overnight stays be allocated?

At present, to make sure your needs can be accommodated, our plan is to ask you to submit your requests each half term. To help you, we will make sure that evening events, commitments and social activities that might mean Day Plus pupils from certain year groups want to stay overnight are advertised with as much notice as possible. We don't want to promise what we can't deliver, but we believe it will be workable, we'll give as much notice about events that pupils are likely to want to stay over for and we'll be careful with our scheduling so that year groups can be accommodated. We want to enable your sons and daughters to stay on the nights they would like to and we will do all we can to accommodate all requests but no guarantees can be made at this stage.

How will you accommodate the Day Plus pupils who opt for the same night? Can you accommodate all of them in the current houses?

If every single pupil wants the same day, then we wouldn't be able to accommodate everyone on the same night. However, thanks to the information parents have submitted about which nights are likely to be their preference, we have found that requests are likely to be evenly balanced across the week, so we do not anticipate many occasions where we won't be able to accommodate all requests. With enough notice we should anticipate being able to offer regular nights for the same pupils as well as offering flexibility if other nights are required.

How will it work if pupils want to stay for supper or to do prep on some days?

We will be able to accommodate this option for pupils who need it. For Day Plus pupils, if this is their first night of the week then there is no charge. For Day pupils, the charge to cover school supper will be added to your termly bill.

How will bus routes be adapted to fit the new model?

We currently run routes through Shere, Shalford, Chilworth, Busbridge, Hascombe, Dunsfold, Chiddingfold, Godalming and Haslemere. In addition, for Year 9 boarders we have introduced a Wednesday evening route and Thursday morning to and from Guildford station, for those wanting to use the flexibility of having a night at home mid-week as they settle into boarding. From September 2026 we will also be adding two new daily routes from Cobham and Billingshurst via Horsham. We will continue to review the service to support families and will be pleased to hear feedback. You can find more details about our bus routes [here](#).

How do you justify the boarding cost?

Our Boarding model remains as it has done for many years. Whilst the majority of Cranleigh parents choose for their children to come home on Saturday and Sunday nights, we are a full boarding school and all current boarders can stay over the weekend. Our costs are based on this full Boarding model.

Are your fees for both Day and Day Plus in line with other schools in the area?

Yes, we have looked carefully at our competitors and benchmarked ourselves against them. Different schools take different approaches, of course, but our research shows that our Day and Day Plus model represents good value for money.

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