

4.7.1 Statement of Boarding Principles

(NMS Policy B14, N1)

Boarding at Saint Ronan's is a well-established tradition which aims to provide a warm, secure, friendly and family style environment for boarders.

The following aims are intended to provide a high standard of pastoral care ensuring that the boarders at Saint Ronan's are able to flourish becoming independent, sensitive, open-minded children able to live within the school community.

Aim 1 – To provide a safe boarding environment

Saint Ronan's recognises that it is of paramount importance for boarders to live and work in a safe environment.

Practice

- Everybody within the community is encouraged to report to the H & S Officer any issues relating to Health and Safety without delay.
- Everybody within the community is encouraged to report to the Child Protection Officer (DCPC) any issues relating to safeguarding without delay.
- Health & Safety and Pupil Welfare are standing agenda items on both SMT, Staff and boarding meetings.
- A Health, Safety & Welfare Committee representing all areas of school life meets termly. This Committee is chaired by the Trustee with HSW responsibility.
- Systems are in place to ensure the boarding staff know the whereabouts of the boarders at all times.
- Qualified first aiders are on duty at all times.

Aim 2 – To provide a homely environment

Saint Ronan's believe that pupils will flourish within a happy, family style environment.

Practice

- Boarders have use of the grounds and sports hall for physical activities and the games room and snug room in the evening to relax, watch television, and play games.
- Boarder's birthdays are celebrated and Christmas parties, for example, are organised.
- Boarders use their own bedding.
- Boarders are encouraged to personalise their dormitory areas with posters and pictures creating a home from home feel.

- Boarders favourite meals are listed in results of the annual questionnaire and fed back to the kitchens.
- Meals are eaten together with the boarding staff each night and in the morning.

Aim 3 – To provide individual care

Saint Ronan’s recognises that each child will need to receive individual attention to ensure that their particular needs are supported and their talents developed where possible.

Practice

- Staff involved in boarding are predominately also involved in the daily lives of the children boarding.
- Boarding staff and the school matron talk to the pupils on a regularly basis, monitoring their health, emotional well-being and academic progress.
- Boarding staff and the school matron correspond with the parents, guardians and academic staff regarding the individual needs of boarders. Together with their support they ensure the well-being of the students in their care.
- Pupil welfare is discussed at the weekly staff meeting where necessary.
- All pupil information is collated onto ISAMS.

Aim 4 – To promote a healthy lifestyle

Saint Ronan’s strongly believes in maintaining a healthy lifestyle through a balanced diet and a wide range of physical activities.

Practice

- Healthy, balanced evening meals and breakfasts are provided with fruit being on offer at all times.
- Boarders are taught that healthy eating habits are an essential part of their growing up.
- Each day / evening the boarders have the opportunity to take part in a variety of physical activities.
- Being healthy is included in the PSHE syllabus and delivered to all children.

Aim 5 – To encourage the pupil’s personal development and independence.

At Saint Ronan’s the boarders are encouraged to develop their independence, social and organisational skills while showing awareness for the other pupils and staff.

Practice

- Pupils are encouraged to try boarding and to enjoy the independence it allows.
- Pupils have to keep their possessions and bed area neat and tidy.
- Pupils are responsible for handing in their washing each night.
- Pupils can opt to become “Boarding Rangers” and take on responsibilities such as assist the matron with drinks and snack in the evening or handing out laundry bags.
- Pupils are able to express their opinions of boarding via the staff or through the student council or boarding representative.
- Pupils are used to look after new boarders.

Person responsible: TF

Implementation date: 23rd October 2002

Revised: Jan 2012, Sept 2012, Sept 2013,
Sept 2015, Sept 2016, Sept 2017, Sept 2018,
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