



BOARDING PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

Person responsible: College Principals, King's School, Canterbury International College
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The King's School, Canterbury International College

Boarding Principles and Practice

Everything we do at the International College is designed to help us meet our goal of providing international students with a soft landing in British boarding and a gateway to academic excellence. At the same time, the International College is a member of the historic King's School family, and as such we believe that much of what is valuable in education takes place outside of the classroom. The College therefore aims to provide a very full educational experience for international students in the context of full boarding. Such a programme can often make great demands on the students and staff involved so the College is committed to the highest levels of pastoral care.

The College Principals have overall responsibility for the welfare of all students. They report to the Head of The King's School.

The International College is situated in a state-of-the-art building located on the Malthouse Campus, near the King's Recreation Centre and Birley's Playing Fields, approximately ten minutes' walk from the Precincts. The College has a maximum capacity of 80 students.

1. Principles

The College offers a boarding approach that reflects the best of UK boarding, yet one that is delivered with an understanding that international students need time and support to learn how to make the most of life in the UK and British educational traditions. As an international community, we embrace diversity and have a desire to foster fairness, kindness, helpfulness and mutual respect. The whole boarding team, including College Principals, Deputy and Assistant Houseparents, Matrons, Tutors, and support staff all work to make the students' boarding experience positive and safe.

As a member of the King's School family, we believe in students developing individual passions that often become lifelong pursuits: sporting, musical, and artistic. Beyond this, our expectations of students are straightforward: be kind and work hard. Adhering to these fundamental principles will ensure that each student will get the most out of their time at the College, by forming meaningful friendships with other students, progressing well in their studies, particularly their English fluency, and by contributing wholeheartedly to College life and co-curricular activities. We aim to ensure that all our students leave the College not only ready to enter a mainstream English-speaking curriculum, but also feeling that they have been challenged and enriched by the experience.

2. Practice

The International College can house up to 80 students, both girls and boys, from Year 9 to Year 11. Although nearly all students board, we may occasionally have day students who live with a guardian or parent nearby.

a) Policy

The International College follows most of the policies and protocols of The King's School. For some policies it follows The King's School policy with an appendix to explain minor differences, and for some issues, the College has its own policy. The policies and daily operational practices are reviewed against the National Minimum Standards for Boarding and we are confident that we meet and exceed these standards.

b) Safeguarding and Safety

King's is committed to Safeguarding all pupils and suspected cases of child abuse would be referred to the Social Services Division in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Local Safeguarding Children's Board. The Designated Safeguarding Lead is one of the College Principals. The College DSL works in cooperation

with the whole-school Safeguarding Coordinator, who is known to College staff and students. Both College Principals and the Deputy Housemistress are trained to Level 3 and keep their qualifications up to date through refresher courses. All staff (teaching and non-teaching) receive regular safeguarding training, and important safeguarding themes are highlighted regularly (at least half-termly) in whole-staff meetings. The Safeguarding Policy is a King's School policy, with an appendix specific to the International College and can be found on the College website. All staff read the policy before starting work at the College.

In addition to College staff, students can discuss any issue of concern with the Independent Listeners, members of the School Chaplaincy team, or with The King's School Counsellors. The College has its own dedicated Counsellor, who is available exclusively to its students for appointments twice a week. Contact details for the Independent Listeners, Chaplains and the Counsellors, along with other contact numbers such as those for the Duty Officer of Social Services and Childline, are published on notice boards and students are regularly reminded of the people they can talk to if they have a concern both inside and outside the College and School.

A high priority is placed on maintaining students' safety around the College and School sites and on the route between various venues (e.g. to and from the Birley's sports fields). In addition to clear guidelines for the students themselves, the International College is accessible only by swipe card access. King's has also provided additional protection by the use of CCTV cameras and constant monitoring by security personnel. Students are all provided with a lockable safe in which to keep valued possessions.

c) Staffing

The fact that the College Principals are also the Houseparents means that they have a good overall picture of students' progress and wellbeing and that they are able to share necessary information with colleagues in a timely manner. The College Principals, Deputy HSM, and Residential Matron, live in the same building as the students ensuring a high level of care. Assistant HSMs also live in a staff flat within the building on their duty nights and duty weekends. During the evenings, Tutors also work in the College on a rota, bridging the academic and residential sides of the students' lives during the term.

There are regular meetings at which boarding and pastoral issues are discussed: the weekly SMT meeting, the weekly whole-staff meeting and the weekly House Team meeting. Additionally, the College Principals and Deputy HSM work with the Senior Tutor, Matrons, Tutors and Domestic Staff to ensure good handovers between shifts and good record keeping.

d) Contact with Home

The College Principals, Deputy HSM, Senior Tutor, Matrons, and Tutors, are in regular contact with students' parents and guardians by telephone and email. At the beginning of the academic year, Tutors contact all parents and guardians individually. Furthermore, before any student goes to stay with a homestay family (during mid-term break, for example) the College Principals, Deputy/ Assistant HSM or Senior Tutor contact new homestay families to enquire about the level of care that will be provided. When necessary, this prompts further discussions between the College and parents. Students can request a telephone to make private calls if they wish. Guardians regularly visit the College to see their charges and meet with the College Principals and teachers. Students are welcome to spend a weekend away from College from time to time with their Guardian or with friends.

e) Health and Well Being

The College has its own Matrons, including one Resident Matron, who are responsible for the day-to-day health of the students, working closely with the College Principals, School Doctor and the Health Centre. The Health Centre employs qualified nursing Sisters, and it is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The College's PSHEC policy is to promote a healthy lifestyle and to give guidance on all aspects of personal and social development, including alcohol, tobacco and vaping, personal relationships and drugs. King's prides itself on the quality of food provided for boarders. There is always plenty of choice, the menus are truly

international, provision is made for special dietary needs, and students have input into the development of catering provision.

f) Opportunity

The College provides a wide range of facilities and opportunities for its boarders beyond the classroom. These include academic clubs and talks, debates, a wide range of musical activities, art, drama, ICT and sport, all of which are available throughout the week and many at weekends. This programme involves College students mixing with pupils from The King's School.

g) Diversity

All of the students at the College are international, and as such it is naturally a diverse community. The College actively celebrates difference and understanding, such as through our annual culture fair, celebrations such as 'IDAHOBIT' Day, the College's new FREDIE group and our 'cultural awareness project'. Opportunities for worship are provided, and all students are also expected to attend some key events in the Cathedral during the year. Throughout the life of the College, staff work to promote non-judgmental attitudes and a celebration of difference in all forms, and this is supported by our anti-discrimination framework. Staff and students have been trained on this and it forms part of our daily working practices.

h) Behaviour

It is essential for a school to run as a well-ordered community where both the rights of individuals and their responsibilities towards others are recognised and maintained. Expectations of behaviour are given in the College Rules, which all students receive a copy of and read when they join the College. We regard any form of bullying as entirely incompatible with the wellbeing of the community as a whole. Anti-bullying work is led by our Anti-bullying Lead and supported by the College's anti-bullying student group: 'Just!Ce'. Staff are vigilant in looking out for signs of such behaviour and any offences are treated very seriously. The College operates a system of rewards and sanctions.

College bounds (permitted areas of King's property) are defined in the College Rules, but permission to leave the bounds may be granted by the College Principals, and with due regard to student's safety and welfare.