



Statement of Boarding Principles and Practice

Boarding at Repton exemplifies the wholeness that is at the heart of the School. Its abiding principle is to create a feeling of belonging to a house and to a school for every individual and in so doing, to engender that sense of self-worth, and appreciation and understanding, which underpins true and lasting happiness and a confident pursuit of personal and academic ambitions. In boarding, as in wider school life, all pupils should enjoy the same right to a happy, safe and fulfilling experience at Repton regardless of race, gender or gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, disability, background, age, special educational need, academic or sporting ability.

The majority of Reptonians are full boarders who live, with their day pupil peers integrated among them, in ten boarding houses – four girls' and six boys' – and who thrive in the traditional, yet forward-looking structure this creates. Repton's ethos is firmly that of a busy, seven-day-a-week boarding school which offers a stimulating array of activities and opportunities for our pupils – academic, sporting, cultural and social – in first-rate facilities, led by dedicated and enthusiastic staff. The emphasis in the boarding houses, as in the School, is on learning as a way of life: of the discovery of truths – intellectual, personal and social - and of the acquisition of valuable experience in readiness for the future.

A Repton boarding house is a unique community; one in which pupils are given the freedom to express themselves as individuals and yet also enjoy that pivotal sense of belonging to a wider society. It is founded upon respectful, supportive and friendly relationships, many of which last a lifetime. It is a common sight, though rarer in the outside world, for a Year 9 pupil to be perfectly at ease in the company of a sixth former, and later for this kindness and understanding, in turn, to be reciprocated to other, younger pupils as he or she moves through the School. This close association builds that network of confidence and resilience needed for future tests of character. A Repton boarding house is a place where pupils will be valued for who they are as individuals, a place where they are recognised and praised for their achievements and helped with their needs.

Boarders are asked to take responsibility, not just for themselves but for others and the accommodation in which they live. In the house, they are given many opportunities across the 13-18 age-range and throughout the year to show the qualities of leadership that become formalised in the sixth form into prefectships and specific organisational posts and duties; offices founded on the virtues of integrity, selflessness and compassion that are championed in the community from the outset. Reptonians of all ages are encouraged to engage fully in the life of their houses and to contribute to their development through both formal and informal expression of their views. Boarders are encouraged and supported such that they develop their self-esteem, self-confidence and resilience, including an understanding of how to improve their own learning and performance, so that they are well prepared for the next stage of their lives.

An abiding loyalty and affection for the House is generated in Reptonians. They are safe, happy and, above all, homely places under the guidance of a Housemaster or Housemistress, whose responsibility it is to oversee the academic and pastoral wellbeing of the pupils in their charge. Liaising closely with parents and guardians and drawing on the purposeful support of the boarding team, the Housemaster or Housemistress provides that constant, reliable and accessible care that anchors the pupil's progress through the school and prepares them for the challenges of university and the world of work beyond.

The family environment of the boarding house, stemming naturally from the houseparents' own, is further underpinned by the presence of a resident Matron, who works closely with the Lead School Nurse, Health & Wellbeing Centre staff, counselling team and the School Doctor to monitor and promote the health and well-being of pupils, as well as a team of house tutors, drawn from the academic staff, and its own domestic and catering team. All make an important contribution to the lives and comfort of the pupils and indeed the strength of the relationships between staff and pupils is one of the key rewards of the boarding environment. The School sees itself in a genuine partnership with pupils' families and there is regular contact with home both from staff and pupils, via email, phone and in person.

Boarding is under the management of the Deputy Head Pastoral, reporting directly to the Headmaster and liaising closely with the Principal Deputy Head to ensure that the very highest standards of pastoral care are maintained. Boarders have access to a wide range of staff within the School and individuals and organisations outside the School who support young people. While every effort is made to ensure that the boarding experience is a consistently affirmative and enriching one, it is understood that there may be times when being away from home and family can lead to emotional and behavioural challenges and difficulties and pupils are encouraged to make effective use of the range of support mechanisms. The boarding experience at Repton is dedicated to promoting positive mental health and wellbeing for all pupils.

Repton is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. Bullying will not be tolerated in any form and the School's robust Anti-Bullying Policy ensures that such negative behaviour within the community is dealt with firmly and effectively.

We welcome pupils from across the world to a community where diversity is appreciated and celebrated; where discrimination based on differences in race, religion, culture, gender, sexuality, educational needs, disability or family situation is unacceptable, and in which all pupils can be guaranteed fair and equal treatment with their peers. Pupils attend regular Chapel services, but there is a broad emphasis on the individual spiritual and personal journey and those of different faiths are accommodated.

THN

Michaelmas 2023