

Earlscliffe (Earlscliffe Ltd.)

Policy Title: Statement of Boarding Principles and Practice

SLT Member Responsible: Deputy Head (Pastoral and Boarding)

Date of Review: June 2025

Next Review Due: June 2026

Introduction

Earlscliffe is an international boarding school that celebrates diversity, fostering a supportive and inclusive community where students develop into confident, independent, and resilient individuals. Boarding at Earlscliffe provides a structured yet nurturing environment that allows students to excel academically, socially, and emotionally.

The 'in-town' campus design promotes self-reliance and time-management skills while providing easy access to facilities and the local community. Our boarding programme aligns with Earlscliffe's core values of **Aspiration, Community, Curiosity, Personal Development, and Respect**.

Earlscliffe offers full boarding provision during term time and half-term breaks. Students typically reside in one of six boarding houses, returning home during end of term school holidays. Each residence provides a safe and supportive environment, with structured routines and supervised access.

Our Commitment

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all students, adhering to the **National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools (2022)** and **Keeping Children Safe in Education (2025)**. The health, safety, and well-being of our boarders remain paramount.

Our boarding provision aims to:

- Provide a secure, inclusive, and respectful environment where students thrive.

- Promote personal integrity, independence, and leadership skills.
- Celebrate diversity and foster relationships across cultures and communities.
- Encourage boarders to contribute positively to the boarding and wider school communities.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy**, **Behaviour Policy**, and related school policies available on the Earlscliffe website.

Indicators of Boarding Excellence

The following Indicators of Boarding Excellence define the standards and aspirations of Earlscliffe's boarding provision, ensuring alignment with the school's values:

1. **Students Feel Valued and Known**

Students consistently report feeling known, respected, and valued as individuals. Each student has at least one trusted adult they can talk to, supported by the synergy between the Senior Tutor and the House Master/Mistress (HM), ensuring tailored and holistic care.

2. **Safe, Inclusive, and Respectful Environment**

Boarding fosters an environment where safety, inclusion, and respect are paramount. Facilities are designed to provide comfort and security, while routines, such as safeguarding practices, student education about personal safety, and community-building activities, ensure boarders thrive physically, emotionally, and socially.

3. **Supportive and Diverse Community**

A culture of diversity and mutual respect is celebrated, fostering relationships across cultures and communities through events and initiatives that promote inclusivity and understanding. Students feel a strong sense of belonging in a supportive and inclusive boarding environment, reflecting Earlscliffe's values of Community and Respect.

4. **Holistic Well-Being Support**

Students benefit from proactive pastoral care that integrates their physical, emotional,

and mental health needs. Key features include access to a 24/7 pastoral team, nutritious meals, routines promoting balance, mental health resources, and readily available medical care.

5. Encouragement of Leadership and Contribution

Students are actively encouraged to take on leadership roles, such as House Captain, Wellbeing Prefect, or Events and Media Prefect. These roles allow students to develop independence, resilience, and collaboration skills while contributing positively to their boarding community.

6. Opportunities for Personal Development and Growth

The boarding experience promotes independence, self-reliance, and accountability. Students develop critical life skills, such as time management, decision-making, and self-discipline, while living in an 'in-town' campus that encourages engagement with the local community.

7. Excellence in Communication and Collaboration

Open and transparent communication ensures students and parents feel supported. The partnership between students, their Senior Tutors, and HMs ensures concerns are addressed promptly, achievements are celebrated, and updates about academic and co-curricular progress are shared regularly.

8. Engagement with Co-Curricular Activities

The boarding programme enables students to engage meaningfully in extracurricular and leadership opportunities, supporting their aspirations while maintaining a healthy balance between structured activities and free time.

9. Preparation for Future Success

The boarding experience is structured to develop the skills students need for life beyond school, including independence, confidence, and resilience. Students leave Earlscliffe equipped to thrive in diverse and dynamic environments, embodying the values of Aspiration and Personal Development.

10. Celebration of Curiosity and Learning

Boarding encourages a love of learning and intellectual curiosity. Opportunities to explore new perspectives, engage in informal learning discussions, and share interests are embedded in the boarding programme, fostering critical thinking and openness.

Boarding Environment

Earlscliffe operates six supervised boarding residences, each managed by a dedicated and professional House Master/Mistress (HM). These residences are designed to provide comfort, security, and a sense of belonging, with a strong emphasis on well-being and community spirit.

Key features include:

- A focus on maintaining students' physical and mental health through regular routines, nutritious meals, and supportive pastoral care.
- Comfortable en-suite bedrooms that balance privacy with community living.
- Common areas and kitchens for relaxation and socialising, fostering camaraderie and teamwork.
- Structured routines and oversight to ensure safety and accountability.

Pastoral Support and Communication

Pastoral care is a cornerstone of Earlscliffe's boarding programme. The **Senior Tutor** serves as the key point of contact for all students, providing holistic support that integrates academic progress with personal well-being. For boarders, this support is complemented by their **HM**, who works synergistically with the Senior Tutor to ensure each student receives tailored care and guidance.

Key aspects of pastoral support include:

- A 24/7 pastoral team available for support and emergencies.
- Regular pastoral meetings to review student welfare, with input from the SENDCo, School Nurse, HMs, Senior Tutors, and the Deputy Head (Pastoral and Boarding).

- Open lines of communication, encouraging students to approach staff with concerns or celebrations.
 - A commitment to helping students achieve a healthy balance between academics, extracurricular activities, and personal time.
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Core Principles of Boarding

The boarding experience at Earlscliffe reflects our core values:

- **Aspiration:** Encouraging students to strive for excellence in all areas of life.
 - **Community:** Building a supportive environment where students and staff collaborate and care for one another.
 - **Curiosity:** Fostering a love for learning and an openness to new perspectives.
 - **Personal Development:** Supporting students in developing independence, resilience, and self-awareness.
 - **Respect:** Promoting kindness, understanding, and dignity in all interactions.
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Leadership and Growth Opportunities

Leadership is a vital part of Earlscliffe's boarding ethos. We offer structured roles, such as **House Captains**, **Wellbeing and Mental Health Prefects**, and **Events and Media Prefects**, which empower students to contribute meaningfully to their community while developing key leadership skills.

Preparation for the Future

Boarding at Earlscliffe prepares students for life beyond school by nurturing independence, self-confidence, and a sense of responsibility. Students leave with not only strong academic foundations but also the personal qualities needed to succeed in diverse and dynamic environments.

Governance, Feedback and Review

The **Deputy Head (Pastoral and Boarding)** is responsible for overseeing the implementation and review of this statement. Governance oversight is provided by the Head and Proprietor. This document is reviewed annually and updated as necessary to reflect evolving best practice.

Students and parents are encouraged to raise any feedback, suggestions, or concerns through House staff, Senior Tutors, or via the school's Complaints Policy, available on request.

Access and Availability

This policy is made available to staff, students, and parents via the school website and can be requested in printed form from the school office.