

Statement of Boarding Principles and Practice

1. These principles and practices outline the contribution made by the boarding ethos of the Stephen Perse Foundation (the '**Foundation**') to the achievement of the vision and the aims of the Foundation. Full time boarding provision is available to UK and International students aged 15 or over who are at the Foundation's Sixth Form. Flexi-boarding is available for UK students in Year 10 upwards for either one, two or three nights a week and can be taken regularly throughout the year.
2. Boarding policies and procedures are reviewed regularly against the National Minimum Standards for boarding schools, the arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of those who board.
3. The ideas of 'encouraged responsibility' and 'managed independence' underlie all aspects of Sixth Form life at the Foundation and come into their own in the boarding houses. It is one of the reasons why we believe we attract a substantial number of students who have never lived away from home before, as well as many with previous boarding experience. The Foundation instills this ethos throughout the boarding houses, whilst recognising that Senior School students who board, including those who board on a flexible basis, may need an additional level of support as they prepare to transition between the Senior School and Sixth Form.
4. The Foundation's boarding community is a varied and diverse one, and although students have different backgrounds and needs, a sense of belonging is actively encouraged. It is the aim of the Foundation to be able to treat all boarders as individuals and provide an environment in which all may flourish.
5. We are committed to ensuring that students who board at the Foundation receive the domestic, pastoral and tutorial support necessary to promote their development as individuals, as members of the Sixth Form, or Senior School, and as members of the Foundation's community. We provide comfortable, safe and secure accommodation with suitable communal facilities and wholesome food. The Foundation will ensure ready access to healthcare agencies and supervision appropriate to the age group and to the needs of our boarders.
6. Our boarding houses not only provide a safe place for students to live and study, but also enable

the development of important skills such as getting on with others, and striking the right balance between study and leisure. We also promote a responsible respect for the beliefs, possessions and characteristics of others, important for communal living and preparation for adulthood.

7. In this context, boarders are advised, helped and watched over by Boarding House Staff. All Foundation House Staff take their pastoral duties seriously, being presentable and professional in dealing with students, their parents, guardians, teaching and non-teaching colleagues. House Staff act as role models for the students in their care and place the health, safety and welfare of the students foremost. House Staff provide good day-to-day advice, guidance and encouragement to students. House Staff are managed by the Head of Boarding and work closely with the Foundation's pastoral team regarding any pastoral issues.
8. We expect Sixth Form boarders at the Foundation to develop a responsible attitude to the exercise of the relatively greater personal freedom of the Sixth Form, and for younger students who may be boarding - including those boarding on a flexible basis - to also develop a responsible attitude with additional support as appropriate to their age. This is intended to provide a valuable halfway house between home or the more traditional boarding school and the more open experience of life beyond school and Sixth Form - particularly at university.
9. The Foundation's boarding provision is regularly inspected, with areas such as catering and boarding staff being officially commended. However, boarding is not just about food and accommodation for our students. In the most recent inspection, which took place in October 2021, inspectors commented that the boarding provision "safeguards and promotes their [students'] welfare " .
10. Full time boarders are welcome to stay every weekend of term or subject to approval from parents/guardians and the Head of Boarding, boarders may request an exeat (Friday to Sunday). For those who stay, the boarding houses continue to operate as normal and activities/events are organised for and are available to boarders during the evenings and at weekends.
11. The boarding houses comprise of either single or twin study-bedrooms. Full time boarders are always allocated their own study-bedroom. Room sizes may vary within the house but all include study space as well as a bed and storage. All rooms have en-suite bathrooms and all have free Wi-Fi. Each boarding house has a common room with a digital TV and DVD player, and facilities for making tea, coffee and snacks.
12. Breakfast, lunch and evening meals are provided every day, during term time, prepared by the Foundation's external catering provider. The food is wholesome and healthy and always includes a vegetarian choice. The Catering Manager is very pleased to consider suggestions from students for additional or alternative dishes. We cater for most special dietary needs, from vegetarian to Halal.

13. All boarders are fully supported medically and have access to excellent medical care and counselling services if needed.
14. The Foundation boarding aims to establish, maintain and encourage an environment within which academic excellence flourishes, personal development is supported and the life chances of all are enhanced.

Reviewed: August 2022

Version Control

Date of adoption of this policy	June 2021
Date of last review of this policy	August 2022
Date for next review of this policy	Autumn Term 2023
Policy owner	Head of Boarding
Authorised by	Principal and Governing Body