

CHRIST'S HOSPITAL SCHOOL

BOARDING POLICY

Aim

1. The aim of this policy is to provide an overview of the arrangements for boarding at Christ's Hospital.

Statement of Boarding Principles

2. In order to ensure that we provide the very best pastoral care and welfare support to our students, Christ's Hospital aims to:
 - a. provide each student with a calm, caring and supportive extended family environment in their boarding house;
 - b. ensure that boarding staff have the appropriate training and resources to discharge their duty of care effectively;
 - c. monitor and develop the programme of pastoral care throughout the school;
 - d. maintain an effective anti-bullying programme so that every member of the community knows that they belong;
 - e. safeguard and promote the welfare of students at School and on all School trips;
 - f. foster the Christ's Hospital community values of kindness, inclusion, responsibility, perseverance, and individuality; and
 - g. develop the qualities of integrity, loyalty, and leadership in all students.

Overview

3. Christ's Hospital has 18 boarding houses. The school is predominantly full boarding and views boarding as a central part of its charitable mission. The school was founded in 1552 on the precept of accepting students that needed a stable, secure and caring boarding environment. The school's ethos remains largely unchanged to the present day with over 75% of students receiving some form of bursarial support and over 10% of students paying no fees at all.
4. House identity is of paramount importance to students at Christ's Hospital with house competitions centred around sport, music and academic prowess being keenly contested through the year. Charitable giving is at the heart of what we do with each boarding house fundraising for its own house charity, in addition to the whole school charity.

House configuration

5. There are 16 boarding houses on the Avenue, with eight girls' houses and eight boys' houses. The boarding houses cater for 44 to 53 students, with students ranging in age through Years 7 to 12. Each house has a resident houseparent, two resident matrons, an assistant houseparent, and four house tutors.
6. Each year group within an Avenue house consists of four to twelve students.
7. In their final year, the Year 13 or upper sixth form students (known as Grecians) move to one of the two co-educational upper sixth form boarding houses for what is intended to be a transitional year, as they prepare to move on to university and life beyond Christ's Hospital. Due to their larger size, the Grecian houses each have a resident houseparent,

a resident assistant houseparent, and a second assistant houseparent. There are also two non-resident day matrons.

Boarding accommodation

8. Junior students usually share a room with two or three other students and this helps with the integration process. UF (Year 10) students usually share a double room with one other student, as do GE (Year 11) students. Some GE students and most Deputy Grecians (Year 12) have their own study bedroom. Grecians (Year 13) are accommodated in one of the Grecian houses and have their own study bedroom with a sink. Students at Christ's Hospital can state a preference as to whom they would like to share with, and this is often rotated each term in the Avenue houses. All students have access to a lockable space, both in the day room/kitchen and in their study bedrooms. Padlocks are available on loan where required.

House ethos

9. The Avenue houses are designed to operate on the principle of an extended family with each house adopting a set of house values that have been chosen by the students and houseparent. These values are often closely associated with the school's community values. Older students (usually Year 12) assist the houseparent and matron in the running of the boarding house. These students are given responsibility for some of the day-to-day running of the boarding house, including coordinating house teams and rehearsals for the various house competitions, chairing house council meetings, and managing the house cleaning rota.

Safeguarding, welfare and child protection

10. In simple terms, Christ's Hospital sets out to provide the very best care for the students entrusted to us. Our primary aim is to ensure that every student is happy at school and feel that they have a productive role to play in our community.
11. All staff receive annual training in safeguarding and child protection matters, as do those students in leadership roles (Monitors and Peer Mentors). All students are encouraged to speak to a senior student or a member of staff who may be a member of the house team, their tutor, their class teacher, the Chaplain, a member of the Senior Leadership Team, or one of the Medical Centre staff if they have any concerns or are concerned about another student.
12. The school operates its own Medical Centre with a trained nurse on duty 24 hours a day during term time. The school has two general practitioners who are senior partners in a local medical practice and they, or one of their team, is available to see students each morning from Monday to Friday, or at other times in emergencies.
13. Students with emotional problems are closely and carefully monitored. They may be raised for discussion or flagged up through the Cause for Concern (C4C) electronic system.
14. The most concerning student cases are discussed at the weekly Welfare Team Meeting, which is attended by the Senior Deputy Head, the Assistant Head (Boarding), the Senior and Deputy Nursing Officers, the School therapists, the Head of Learning Support, the Chaplain, the Designated Safeguarding Lead, the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads, the EDI Lead, the International Student Lead and the Student Welfare Officer. Occasionally, a houseparent or a Head of Year may be invited to attend the meeting to discuss a specific student. When necessary, students can be referred to see a member

of the therapy team. Students are carefully assessed and are either discharged, offered appropriate counselling or therapeutic support or referred to the local Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) or to other external Children's Services. The therapy team consists of four therapists, so are able to maintain a short waiting list.

15. Relevant phone numbers for Child Line, the School's Independent Person and the Independent Schools Inspectorate are displayed prominently in the boarding houses.

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| • Child Line | 0800 1111 |
| • Independent Listener (Rev. Andy Nicholson) | 07512 314312 |
| • Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) | 020 7600 0100 |

House sanctions and rewards

16. As far as possible, houseparents act *in loco parentis*, and provide a caring, supportive environment for the children in their care. Each house has its own system of rewards and sanctions, working within the school's broader system. The emphasis is always on encouragement and reward, rather than on punishment.

17. Minor disciplinary issues will occur from time to time, and these will be dealt with by the houseparent and house staff, along with the Heads of Year. A positive, constructive line is always taken. Head of Year and academic detentions are scheduled when staff need to talk through significant problems with students. The most serious disciplinary issues are referred to the Senior Leadership Team.

18. The school has an active and effective anti-bullying programme and house teams are constantly vigilant for any form of harassment or bullying. Large numbers of Year 12 (Deputy Grecian) students elect to be trained as Peer Mentors in order to support younger students in the boarding houses and across the school. Their formal induction includes four sessions on the topics of safeguarding, teaching and learning skills, listening skills and bereavement.

Communication

19. Christ's Hospital is a 'home away from home' for our students and considerable care is taken to ensure that:

- houseparents and their staff get to know students and their parents as quickly as possible;
- parents receive regular updates on their child's progress;
- parents are informed of any problems that their child might be having and are encouraged to work with the school to resolve these issues;
- parents inform house staff if they become aware of any problems around the care and education of their child; and
- all students have access to a phone. The house mobile phone is located in the Matrons' Office. This is made available to students so that they can call home whenever they need to.

Regulatory compliance

20. Christ's Hospital works hard to ensure that it meets all of the regulatory requirements set out in the National Minimum Boarding Standards, ISI inspection framework and in other relevant legislation, such as Keeping Children Safe in Education.

21. Compliance checks are made regularly by the Assistant Head (Boarding), the Fire Officer and the School Compliance Officer to ensure that appropriate health and safety standards are met in all aspects of school life.
22. The school is subject to regular inspection by the Independent Schools Inspectorate to ensure that all regulatory requirements are met or exceeded.

Management and administration

23. Houseparents are ultimately responsible to the Head for the smooth and effective running of their boarding houses. In practice, they report directly to the Deputy Heads and the Assistant Head (Boarding).
24. Houseparent meetings are chaired by the Assistant Head (Boarding) and are held on a fortnightly basis. Matron meetings are chaired by the Matron Manager and are held half termly. These meetings are used to disseminate information, to provide pastoral training, discuss topical issues, and to progress the pastoral development plan.

Author: SCY

Date of last review: November 2025

Date of next review: November 2026