



Kimbolton School
Cambridgeshire

BOARDING POLICY

Policy owner: This policy is the responsibility of the Senior Deputy Head.

SLT Policy

Policy Summary Statement: This policy outlines Kimbolton School's approach to boarding and the safeguarding and welfare of boarders, in accordance with the *National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools (2022)* and *Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)*.

Release Date: Autumn 2025

Review Date: Autumn 2026



Boarding Policy

Boarders are integrated into the daily routine of the School and the boarding 'ethos' very much influences thinking behind, and functioning of, the School as a whole.

Boarding at Kimbolton School offers boys and girls a comfortable homely environment with access to all the excellent facilities of the School. In addition, the boarders enjoy a wide-ranging package of activities. Boarding at Kimbolton is a rich and rewarding experience within a close-knit community and the security of a relaxed family atmosphere in both Boarding Houses.

Boarding practice is underpinned by the School's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and complies with the *National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools (2022)*. The DSL oversees safeguarding training and procedures. All boarding staff receive safeguarding training appropriate to their roles and are recruited in line with safer-recruitment practices.

Each House will be staffed by Houseparents, a Resident Tutor, a Matron and a team of duty staff. All boarding staff complete safeguarding training appropriate to their roles and are subject to the School's safer-recruitment checks. The School takes a flexible approach to weekends and full boarders may remain in school or go home after discharging their school commitments. Flexibility is the key to a happy community and ultimately the success of boarding. The provision of a full boarding package offers a varied programme of activities. Not only do we wish to create a relaxed family atmosphere, but we also want boarding to be fun. We offer a range of boarding options (Full, Weekly, Flexi or Occasional) to suit individual needs.

All boarding options (Full, Weekly, Flexi, Occasional) operate within safeguarding and welfare considerations and in line with the School's behaviour, ICT and safeguarding policies. Houses adopt similar approaches to activities, in that boarders are encouraged to take advantage of all the opportunities on offer to them, whilst also recognising and respecting individual preferences. The cost of all activities is included in the full boarding fees, therefore no boarder should feel inhibited from getting involved on grounds of expense. Flexi and weekly boarders are billed per activity each term.

A sense of boarding community is fostered both within and between Houses. Our relatively small numbers ensure that age is not a barrier to friendships, as befits our family atmosphere. Age-appropriate guidelines are followed though, for example in the use of devices and when going out. Furthermore, Kim House and White House meet together on a daily basis through shared activities, meals and chapels. The first and last weekend of each term will usually involve an event that brings both Houses together, and male and female boarders are welcome to visit each other's House in free time. Boarding provision promotes equality, diversity and inclusion and respects pupils' protected characteristics.

The importance of boarders' privacy is accepted and boarders are given access to a number of methods of making contact with home, e.g. landline phones and email, but in effect the use of mobile phones and apps such as FaceTime is the most common conduit. Boarders are free to maintain regular contact with home. Boarders' use of phones and online platforms is supported in line with the School's ICT Acceptable Use Policy and Safeguarding Policy, ensuring age-appropriate and safe contact with home.

Rooming arrangements allow for a degree of flexibility, depending upon the numbers in each year group. Whilst junior boarders (ages 11-14) may well share dormitory bedrooms, it would be unusual for 5th form pupils (age 15) and above to share rooms with other pupils below their own age group.



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Sleeping accommodation complies with NMS expectations, including separation of genders, age-appropriate groupings, privacy, and suitable supervision.

Regular House meetings take place in which pupils are encouraged to voice their thoughts, concerns and possible improvements. Many suggestions have subsequently led to reforms and alterations. Pupil views are recorded and reviewed regularly as part of the School's boarding self-evaluation process.

Boarders with a permanent residence overseas must have an appointed Educational Guardian living in the UK. Guardianship arrangements are managed in line with the School's *Educational Guardianship Policy (Autumn 2025)*, which sets safeguarding standards and record-keeping expectations (DBS checks for overnight care, private fostering notifications, AEGIS accreditation, CAS requirements). The Director of External Relations oversees guardianship records in collaboration with the Head of Boarding and the DSL.

It is Kimbolton School's policy to celebrate and support the various cultural identities of overseas boarders. An example of this in action is the annual celebration of the Chinese New Year.

All new boarders and their parents and guardians are invited to a Boarders' Induction where staff value the opportunity to meet parents and guardians in order to establish communication. Induction includes a safeguarding briefing for parents and guardians, outlining expectations and key procedures, with signposts to the Boarding and Educational Guardianship Policies. All school correspondence is sent to home and guardian addresses. Should parents of overseas pupils visit the School, every effort will be made to meet with the Houseparent(s). Houseparents will contact all parents and/or guardians as necessary depending on the individual circumstances, particularly by email.

The Boarding Houses close during school holidays. Parents and Educational Guardians are responsible for making suitable holiday arrangements, in line with the School's Educational Guardianship Policy.

For all exeats, half-term breaks and holidays, parents/guardians must complete a Holiday Leave Form, confirming where the pupil will stay and providing up-to-date contact details. This ensures the School has a clear safeguarding record of each pupil's arrangements when not resident in boarding.

The School provides guidance on recommended travel dates and times. Boarding staff are available to support with advice on transport arrangements where required.

For our overseas students who may have English as a Second Language (ESL), we strive to develop pupils' appreciation and knowledge of British Culture, manners and behaviour while maintaining their indebtedness to their own. We also aim to enhance pupils' academic English. All 3rd, 4th and 5th Form pupils will prepare for the IGCSE ESL, and in 6th Form, our pupils will prepare for the IELTS (International English Language Testing System) examination for UCAS and VISA purposes. Every effort will also be made to support individual pupils across the curriculum, as the need arises. Provision is reviewed regularly to ensure pupils' pastoral and academic needs are met.

It is recognised that our boarders come from a breadth of family experience and that each boarder and his or her family will have an individual view and expectation of boarding. We endeavour to draw the community together with a common vision of boarding but never lose sight of the specific needs of each individual. Boarding provision is regularly reviewed to ensure it remains safe, supportive and fully compliant with the National Minimum Standards.