



Statement of Boarding Principles and Practice

Including all of the Pre-Prep and Early Years Foundation Stage

OJSB

September 2025

Review and Amendment Record

Date	Person Conducting the Review	Changes Made
15/10/19	JERA	Policy reviewed. No changes made.
4/10/20	JERA	No changes made.
5/9/21	JERA	Policy review and no changes made.
26/9/22	OJSB	Updated to reflect new lodge parents and changes due to NMS (2022).
13/9/23	OJSB	Removal of reference to the weekends of Remembrance Service and confirmation service being 'closed' weekends.
14/9/24	OJSB	Updated to reflect new lodge parents.
12/9/25	OJSB	No changes

Boarding at Summer Fields

Statement of boarding principles and practice

Introduction

This statement is for our current boarders and all those boys hoping to start as boarders in the future.

We believe that boys should be exposed to a breadth of education that only a boarding environment can provide, with the values, self-confidence and personality gained in a caring family atmosphere.

We believe that life in a boarding school is fuller and richer than that in a day school because we can offer boys greater opportunity to develop their particular skills and talents. There is always something interesting to do, and boys can follow a full range of children's pursuits in a safe environment. They live together and learn the importance of compassion, responsibility, tolerance and friendship. Above all, they thoroughly enjoy themselves.

There are six boarding houses, called Lodges. Each lodge is usually run by a husband and wife 'lodgeparent' team and an assistant (gap year student) Matron. Some of the lodges also have an additional residential assistant lodge parent. Other members of staff are attached to the Lodge and help out on some evenings. Boys start in a Junior Lodge and then move up to Middle and Senior ones with their peer group.

Parents are encouraged to participate in the life of the school, and all boys have the option of going home for Weekend Leave after games or matches finish on a Saturday afternoon on weekends that are not 'closed'. The first and last weekends of each term are 'closed', with the whole boarding community staying at school. For those that choose to stay in school on Sundays there is usually an optional offsite activity and a full programme of onsite activities. In addition, every 3 or 4 weeks there is an exeat weekend where the school closes for a long weekend. Parents are encouraged to attend school events and sports fixtures which take place on many Wednesdays and Saturdays. We feel that we achieve the right balance to meet the needs of those who want more access and those parents who are unable to be so frequently involved.

All parents want their son to be happy and well looked after and the Lodges play a key role in the welfare of the boys. Many parents comment that the facilities at the school are very good and this helps to ensure that the boys have a lot to do. Praise is also heaped on our Tutor System. Together with the support given by other staff, the Tutor and the Lodge Parents play an important role in the welfare support for the boys.

The Chapel plays a substantial part in the life of the school and is the basis of the spiritual and moral development of the boys. We are a Church of England foundation but ecumenical in our approach. Boys from other denominations take a full part in school chapel but have their particular faith needs met. For example, Roman Catholic pupils receive separate instruction and have opportunities to receive mass regularly whilst Muslim pupils make use of the chapel prayer room during the school day.

Principles of boarding

At Summer Fields we aim to:

- Develop the whole person, and instil a desire for truth and a respect for others in a caring and happy atmosphere.
- Produce an open and trusting ethos in which each boy can feel that he is able to approach any other member of the community, whether that be staff or pupil, confident in the knowledge that he will be treated and respected as an individual.
- Create an atmosphere of tolerance, openness and trust in which teasing, harassment and bullying would find great difficulty in developing.
- Provide the conditions for boarders to develop their intellectual needs through participation in activities and in an atmosphere that values effort.
- Provide a range of activities, hobbies and pastimes that will assist in the personal, social and cultural development of each pupil.
- Safeguard and promote the welfare of each boarder, providing an environment that is, as far as possible, free from physical hazards and dangers of any sort.
- Provide accommodation that is comfortable and suited to the needs of the boarders, and that offers adequate levels of privacy.
- Develop boys' responsibility for self, others and the environment
- Develop boys' qualities of leadership and their ability to work as part of a team.
- Develop confidence in every boy.

Practice of boarding

The whole life of the school is devoted to the needs of the boarders, and the practice of boarding is the way that the school is run.

The boarders sleep in one of six boarding houses or Lodges:

Name	Age group	Lodge parents
Borva	8-10 year olds	Charlie and Kirsty Langley
Savage's	9-11 year olds	Ben and Hannah Hudson
Upper House	10-12 year olds	Belinda Millar
Front Lodge	11-12 year olds	Jack and Olivia Carroll
Cottage	12-13 year olds	Max and Rachelle Jones
Mayfield	11-13 year olds	Peter and Lindsay Dickinson

The great strength of boarding at Summer Fields is the Lodges. The boys are in a Lodge according to their age and as they grow older, so they move Lodges. The Lodges reflect the personalities of the Lodgeparents and they are run on different lines according to the ages of the boys in them. Thus an eight-year-old will be looked after in a different way from a thirteen-year-old who is preparing to move on to his Senior School.

A typical school day is organised as follows:

7.15am	Boys get up
7.30am	Breakfast
8.15am	Chapel or Assembly
8.35 – 10.25am	3 lessons of 35 minutes
10.25- 11.00am	Morning Break
11.00 - 12.45pm	3 lessons
12.35pm	Lunch begins (staggered with Year 4 first)
1.40 – 3.25pm	3 lessons (summer timetable)
1.40 – 2.45pm	Games (winter timetable)
3.25pm	Little Tea
4.00 - 5.00pm	Games (summer timetable)
3.15 – 5.00pm	3 lessons (winter timetable)
5.15 – 5.55pm	Activities
6.00pm	Supper (Years 4-6)
6.00-6.40pm	Private Study (Year 7 and 8)
6.40pm	Supper (Years 7 and 8)
7.00 - 8.15pm	Boys go over to Lodge according to age
8.00 - 9.15pm	Lights out depending on age