



THE ORATORY

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Statement of OPS Boarding Principles and Practice

The Oratory Preparatory School aims to provide a safe and healthy boarding environment where each pupil is able and encouraged to discover and reach the full potential of their talents. Boarding should, where possible, reflect family life. In line with the broader aims of the school, the Boarding House is a community where every pupil matters and in which all can develop confidence and self-awareness, as well as respect the cultural and religious diversity of their fellow boarder. There is one boarding house, divided into distinct areas for co-educational living, providing space for a maximum of 15 girls and 35 boys. Small enough for each pupil to feel well known and large enough to allow a variety of personalities to flourish. Care is taken to provide comfortable and pleasant surroundings. Within the boarding house, the resident boarding Housemaster has overall responsibility for the pupils in their care, assisted by resident teaching staff in the evenings, a school nurse, two matrons and gap placement students.

All meals are taken in the main dining room allowing great social interaction between duty staff and pupils. Under the supervision and guidance of staff, boarders are able to use the school's facilities (indoor pool, sports hall, theatre, Computing suite, astro turf etc) after day pupils have left. There are also common rooms for everyone's use where they can relax, play on the xbox or watch a movie. Similarly, there are also quieter areas which allow for more private personal reflection. Boarders have set times when they have access to their personal electrical items: phones, ipads etc and privacy to Skype to family and friends. They can use devices in the boarding house to email home and receive incoming calls if they don't have their own phone. All electrical items are kept securely locked away during the day and after lights out to ensure that use is at an appropriate time. Although living together, staff and boarders should acknowledge the right of each other to privacy. The relationship between pupils and boarding staff must be one which engenders respect both ways, and enables easy dialogue and sharing of

feelings. The boarders are able to share their proposals, feelings and concerns through a number of portals enabling the boarding house to nurture its own progress.