



THE ORATORY
PREP SCHOOL

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FLEXI-BOARDING

WHY FLEXI-BOARD?

Boarding remains an integral part of life at The OPS, and our boarding facilities offer day children additional benefits that can't be found at day schools. Flexi-boarding and occasional boarding are becoming increasingly popular for boys and girls due to the convenience and flexibility. Pupils who have long daily commutes to and from school might prefer to break up their travelling by spending a night or two in the boarding house during the week. It is also a practical option for those who have extra-curricular clubs in the evenings or early mornings. Many pupils, particularly as they progress into the Senior Prep year groups, wish to dedicate more time to prep and revision, and being in school for longer periods allows this in a more structured way than at home. Late-finishing school events often make it difficult for parents to collect their children from school. Booking a bed in the boarding house is a popular option on these occasions.

SOCIAL BENEFITS

There are, of course, many social benefits attached to boarding. Pupils benefit from living together and develop a range of interpersonal skills, which will serve them well in life beyond school. We have observed that boarding, even on an intermittent basis, helps pupils to become more mature, independent and confident, whilst understanding the importance of teamwork, respect and responsibility. Most of all, The OPS boarding house provides a fun, active environment where pupils thoroughly enjoy living together.



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Head of Boarding, Mrs Spencer

CONVENIENCE

Flexi-boarding or occasional overnight stays can provide welcome and convenient support for parents who have busy work schedules, either at home or abroad. It also allows parents to take short breaks or holidays during term-time, without disrupting their child's education. You will always be happy in the knowledge that your child is safe and being well looked after.



COST

The price per night includes supper on that evening and breakfast the following morning and comes to a total of **£60**.

Flexi-boarders who wish to take part in the Sunday outing will be informed of the price of the trip and details for payment will be communicated.

You will be billed on a half-termly basis.

BOOKING

Contact **Mrs Leanne Spencer**, Head of Boarding. She will arrange a tour and a chat if you haven't already viewed the facilities, and will let you know the best time to have a taster night.

boarding@oratoryprep.co.uk





PACKING LIST

Essential

- Dressing gown and slippers (in case of fire)
- Pyjamas
- Clean uniform
- Water bottle (to fill before bed)
- Washbag (comb, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo/shower gel)
- Towel for showers
- Clean socks and underwear
- Chromebook charger
- Home clothes (if staying on Wednesdays or at the weekend)

Optional

- Teddies
- Small games such as card games
- Photos for personalising your area
- Books/magazines
- Tuck (Friday and Weekends only)
- Electronic device (Weds and Sunday only)

Bedding

School duvets and bed linen will be provided for one-off nights. If your child boards regularly as a Flexi Boarder then they may wish to bring in their own (named) bedding to make it feel more like home. This can stay in school until the end of each term. This is not compulsory - school bed linen can be provided if you would find this easier.

Please note that no food or drink is permitted in bedrooms. Tuck and school snacks are only permitted on allocated days. Mobile phones are only permitted on device days. Please do not send your child with a torch - this is not needed and will be taken for safekeeping.



FAQs

How much notice is required to change or cancel my nights?

Flexi Boarding is designed to be flexible, but frequent changes can make it hard to track who's in the boarding house. It's fine to swap nights, but please inform Mrs. Spencer at the start of the week, or earlier if possible. Also, let us know if your child will miss their usual boarding night.

Do boarders have access to food and drink in the boarding house?

Yes! Those who board on Fridays or weekends may bring in some sweets for "tuck night". We also stock the kitchen with bread for toast, milk, cereal, fruit and spreads for boarders to help themselves before bed. We also have a selection of decaf and herbal teas.

Can my child leave their boarding kit in school between stays?

We can store boarding bags if needed. For children staying multiple nights a week, they may have their own bed, with bedding left in place for the next stay. All boarders must pack everything at the end of term.

What happens if my child falls ill during their boarding stay?

If you are local and your child falls ill, we may call and ask if you can collect them. If it's late or you're not home, we'll use our sick-beds in the san to care for them until you're able to pick them up. You'll only be contacted late at night in an emergency. We also stock general over-the-counter medications for common issues like headaches or sore throats.

What about laundry?

Flexi Boarders staying more than one night a week will receive a mesh bag for socks and underwear, which will be washed and returned the next day. We can also wash t-shirts and shirts, but they won't be returned immediately, so please ensure your child has enough clean uniform. All items, including bedding, must be named as we wash these too.



Did you know that
our boarding house
has its own
Instagram account?

Follow us to see
what our boarders
get up to...

@opsboarding

