

Oakfield School

14. Boarding Principles and Practice



To be Reviewed:	November 2020
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POLICY STATEMENT

Oakfield School provides a safe and consistent framework for all of our young people. We are committed to creating and maintaining an educational and caring environment which nurtures and stimulates personal development and wellbeing.

We work to provide the highest quality of residential care within a relaxed environment, integrating care and education staff for a supportive yet structured setting.

Staff encourage the children/young people to have a good attitude to their education and develop confidence and the ability to reflect and 'own' their behaviour. Residential and day pupils follow the timetable and curriculum appropriate to their age.

Across the day we use a restorative approach to problem solving and resolving disagreements.

All boarders have access to a comprehensive list of activities which provide an enjoyable and stimulating environment and experience. Some children participate in an extended day, until 6pm or 8pm. This supports positive group dynamics and enhances good relationships.

SCOPE

Boarding Provision

Oakfield School provides boarding places for young people aged 11– 16 years currently up to four nights a week, children stay according to their individual needs between one and four nights. Residential houses have up to six beds and children are encouraged and supported to personalise their bedrooms, a personal allowance is provided to assist with this.

The decision to reduce or increase the boarding provision for individual pupils relates to the progress they make and individual family circumstances, however, all pupils boarding status is regularly reviewed.

Parental Involvement

Contact with parents/carers is essential and we ensure they are encouraged to be involved in the child's stay at Oakfield School. Staff contact parents at least weekly to ensure they are kept up to date with their child's progress and children can, and do contact parents/carers by telephone when they want.

Good relationships are essential to ensure an effective provision with the best possible outcomes for children.

Accommodation

Each boarder living in a residential house will have their own bedroom which has en-suite facilities. Each house has 2 communal lounge areas, downstairs toilet facilities and a large kitchen/dining area. Breakfast is eaten in the house, lunch can be eaten in the house or in school, dependent on individual cases. The evening meal is prepared by the Residential Cook and eaten in the houses. One house has been specifically built with facilities to meet the needs of children with physical disabilities – the house accommodates a maximum of 5, and has 2 large bedrooms with wet rooms and a lift.

All houses are staffed by the residential child care team and each residential child has a 'keyworker' in school and in residential, this is to provide consistency of approach and support. Each house has a designated House Manager and Senior Child Care Officer who is responsible for the operational management of the house. The Head of Residential Care has overall responsibility for Oakfield School residential provision.

Between the hours of 22.30pm and 07.00am, two staff sleep in within each house and are available for support or dealing with issues or emergencies that arise. The Headteacher continues to take full responsibility for the school.

Independent person

Oakfield has an Independent Visitor, very experienced in working with children and young people, who visits regularly (at least fortnightly) and can be contacted directly by the children on the mobile number provided if the children wish to do so. This person is also accessible to the children who do not reside and posters with details of who the Independent Visitor is and how to contact them are in each house and in the school.

Policies and Procedures are in place to meet the National Minimum Standards 2015 for Residential Special Schools.

This Policy was reviewed November 2017.

Signed:

Mr Lee Morfitt (Chair of Governors)