



# TALBOT HEATH SCHOOL *"Honour Before Honours"*

## **BOARDING PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE**

**Date adopted:** 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**Date for next adoption:** Spring Term 2027

**Reviewed by:** FGB Committee

***As a school, we will make reasonable adjustments to this policy, in line with the SEND Code of Practice (2014) and the Equality Act (2010), for students with SEND.***

### **Aims**

The Boarding Experience at Talbot Heath School aims to meet and develop the holistic needs of each individual boarder. We ensure students are comfortable and well-looked after and that their welfare and well-being are fully provided for in a safe, secure and caring environment.

### **Facilities**

At Talbot Heath, we have one boarding house called St Mary's which enables us to provide outstanding boarding provision for up to 42 girls. We offer full term, weekly and flexi boarding from Year 7 to Year 13 with the option for pupils from Year 4 to board on a flexi/Ad Hoc basis if required.

The majority of Years 7 - 9 are given an area in a 6-bedded dormitory to enable them to settle quickly into boarding life and become part of the boarding house family. Other boarders are accommodated in either single or double rooms depending on personal and individual needs.

The configuration of the Boarding House enables us to provide designated areas for the girls to study quietly, have use of computers and resources as well as rooms to relax in with their friends, watching movies or playing a variety of games e.g. table tennis, Netflix, board games or using the Wii and Apple TV's.

### **Practice**

Boarding at St Mary's offers each boarder a truly international and culturally diverse experience with boarders arriving from up to 8 countries worldwide. They are a flourishing supportive and friendly group, sharing experiences through living and learning together.

All boarders are encouraged to gain independence and take responsibility for themselves as well as being aware of and respecting the needs of others. The experienced boarding staff team provide a caring, cosy, relaxed and family environment where all girls are nurtured and supported according to their individual needs. The staff are all fully trained and a full CPD program is in place on an annual basis. The boarding team work closely with the school nurses, academic staff and the DSL and Headteacher.

The boarders work hard on their studies during the week but are encouraged to participate in extra-curricular activities offered by the school. They are able to use the school facilities out of school hours – swimming pool, sports hall, food and textiles room, music centre and the extensive school grounds. The boarding team also arrange a comprehensive activities programme including visits to places of interest, cinema, theatre trips, shopping trips, craft and cookery sessions and local amenities. Through regular house meetings, suggestion boxes, boarders are able to express their own views as to which activities they would like to see on offer and to express their ideas on any topic connected with boarding and are supported by the House staff and the two Heads of House who are elected by the boarders at the start of each new academic year.