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S. Anselm's

## STATEMENT OF BOARDING PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

At **S. Anselm's**, boarding is a central and valued part of school life where we place the utmost importance on the **pastoral care and wellbeing** of every pupil. We offer full, weekly and flexible boarding to all pupils — local, distant and overseas — providing opportunities to live within our vibrant community and enjoy access to all school facilities. Our aim is to provide a genuine *home from home* where children are **cared for, supported, and encouraged to flourish** in every aspect of their development. Within the beautiful setting of the Peak District National Park, our boarding community is warm, inclusive and nurturing, guided by **experienced staff and conscientious pupils** who together create a strong sense of belonging.

### **Our Boarding Principles**

#### **Exceptional Care and Dedicated Staff**

We provide a high standard of pastoral care, treating each child as an individual with their own ambitions, needs and motivations. Our experienced and approachable staff offer constant support, ensuring every boarder feels **listened to, valued and secure**. All boarding staff receive **regular safeguarding and child protection training** and follow the School's Safeguarding Policy and procedures, ensuring a consistent and professional standard of care.

#### **A Warm, Inclusive Community**

We celebrate and encourage diversity to create an environment where all children feel at home, respect one another and are part of the wider boarding family. Each member of our community is encouraged to adopt an **open, trusting and respectful ethos**, where every pupil knows they can approach any member of staff or peer with confidence, knowing they will be treated with fairness and compassion. We actively support international pupils through **language assistance, cultural integration** and inclusive activities that promote understanding and friendship across backgrounds.

#### **Homely Accommodation and Wellbeing**

Our cheerful, well-appointed dormitories offer comfort, privacy and a genuine sense of belonging. Accommodation is suited to the age and maturity of boarders and provides suitable levels of privacy. We foster an atmosphere of **tolerance, openness and trust**, where bullying or harassment will not be tolerated. Boarding staff are present and available at all times, ensuring boarders feel safe, cared for and relaxed. **Medical and emotional wellbeing** are supported through access to qualified first aiders, healthcare professionals and mental health support when needed.

### **Opportunity, Growth and Adventure**

We aim to develop the whole person — nurturing character, independence, resilience and respect for others. A wide range of **age-appropriate activities, hobbies and enrichment opportunities** support personal, social and cultural growth. We make full use of our Peak District surroundings for outdoor experiences that promote confidence, teamwork and a lifelong appreciation of the natural world.

## **Our Boarding Practice**

### **Provision and Induction**

Boarding at S. Anselm's is offered on a full, weekly or flexible basis, welcoming both local and overseas pupils. Every new boarder receives a structured **induction programme and checklist**, ensuring that expectations, routines and key information are clearly understood. Ongoing pastoral support helps each pupil to settle quickly, make friends and feel part of the community. We are committed to **equality of opportunity** and to treating all boarders fairly, regardless of ethnicity, culture, gender or disability.

### **Environment and Wellbeing**

Our dormitories and communal areas are cheerful, comfortable and well-maintained, creating a genuine *home from home* atmosphere. We provide an environment that supports both academic focus and personal development, including **structured prep sessions, music practice, and access to teaching staff** for guidance. Online safety is promoted through **education in responsible digital citizenship** as well as monitored access to ensure all internet use is appropriate, balanced and positive.

### **Routine and Expectations**

Clear routines and expectations help pupils to develop **responsibility, kindness and self-discipline**, preparing them for future success. House rules promote mutual respect and good conduct, while consistent structures ensure pupils feel safe, confident and supported. Boarders are given separate rewards and sanctions outside of school hours, these are used to reinforce expectations and routines within boarding.

### **Pastoral Care, Safeguarding and Staffing**

We create a caring atmosphere where boarders feel able to celebrate their achievements and seek guidance or support when facing difficulties. All staff play an active role in **safeguarding and**

**promoting welfare**, maintaining an environment free from physical hazards and dangers. Boarding houses are secure and regularly inspected for **health, safety and fire compliance**. Night-time supervision ensures pupils are supported at all times. Our boarding staff are **visible, approachable and highly experienced**, offering continuity, guidance and emotional care throughout each pupil's boarding journey.

### **Community, Activities and Leadership**

We value **mutual respect and shared responsibility** within our boarding community. Mealtimes, recreation and shared activities strengthen the sense of belonging and teamwork. Boarders are encouraged to take responsibility for themselves, their peers and their environment, developing good habits of organisation and personal care. Leadership opportunities and collaborative projects help pupils to build **confidence, initiative and teamwork skills**.

### **Pupil Voice and Involvement**

Boarders are encouraged to contribute ideas and feedback about boarding life through **regular meetings, surveys and informal discussions**, ensuring their views help shape the ongoing development of our boarding provision.

### **Partnership and Continuity of Care**

We believe that close **communication with parents and guardians** is vital to the success of boarding. Regular updates, correspondence and meetings ensure continuity of care between home and school. Families are welcomed into the life of the boarding community and kept fully informed of their child's progress and wellbeing.

### **Policy Alignment**

This statement operates in conjunction with the School's **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, Health and Safety Policy, Behaviour and Discipline Policy, and Equality and Diversity Policy**, ensuring consistency and coherence across all areas of school life.

### **Conclusion**

Boarding at S. Anselm's provides a secure, happy and stimulating environment where every pupil can thrive. Our dedicated staff, strong community values and beautiful setting combine to offer pupils an outstanding foundation for **personal growth, independence and lifelong learning**.