



## **Statement of Boarding Practice and Principles**

The College is committed to ensuring that students who come to board at Bath Academy receive the domestic, pastoral and tutorial support necessary to promote their development as individuals, as members of the college, and as members of the community. We will endeavour to provide a safe, tolerant and comfortable learning environment that will result in progression to a suitable placement in higher education for the student, while developing the student's skills for life to their maximum. We aim to ensure that students are provided with comfortable, safe and secure accommodation with suitable communal facilities. Bath Academy ensures ready access to all health-care agencies and a degree of supervision appropriate to the age group and to the purpose of the college.

The College lays great emphasis on pastoral care. The College is fully committed to the exercise of the relatively greater personal freedom of the College environment. This is intended to provide a valuable half-way house between home or the more traditional boarding school and the more open experience of life beyond school – particularly at university. Respect for the beliefs of others and for their possessions is an important part of communal living. The College policy is to ensure that students living in College Accommodation are given the opportunity to expand their social skills, as well as progress academically, bearing in mind the very varied backgrounds. Students are encouraged to mix socially and opportunities for sports and leisure activities are offered throughout the school year.

The College has mixed sex admission, typically from 14 years up to 18 years. Admission requirements depend on the course applied for (see Curriculum Policy, the College Website and the College main prospectus).

Currently the College will arrange lodgings with approved host families (full board) at the student's request or at the request of their parents, carer(s) or guardian (if the student is aged under 18). Bath Academy also provides boarding accommodation for under-18s in a college residence (8 minutes' walk from main college building). Students who are over 18 can choose to be accommodated in self-catered studio apartments, 'Avon Studios', which is located approximately 15 minutes' walk from the College.

In the College residence, room sizes vary, but all include study spaces as well as bed, storage and a basin. Some rooms have en-suite bathrooms, and all have free broadband internet access. There is a common room with digital TV. In the dining room, there are facilities for making tea, coffee and snacks. The bathrooms, the dining room and other communal areas are cleaned daily. Students' rooms are cleaned weekly and fresh bed linen is provided weekly. There is a washing machine and dryer for students to wash their own clothes. The College Residence is supervised by House Wardens and a Matron/Housekeeper, all trained in First Aid. House Staff are line managed by the Head of Boarding. It is the policy of the college to ensure that each new member of staff concerned

with boarding is given a full induction course, including Child Protection Training, as soon as is feasible after their appointment.

House Wardens are available in the house from 16.00 in the afternoon, until 08.00 each morning. Between the hours of 08.00 and 16.00 the House Matron is on duty for the students. At weekends there are 3 shift patterns for wardens: 06.00 – 14.00, 14.00 – 22.00 and 22.00 – 06.00.

Host families are on our approved list of accommodation. All members of the household aged 18 or over are DBS checked and the accommodation is regularly inspected by the Welfare Officer; at least annually. Students who wish to improve their English by living as part of the family often prefer this accommodation.

Bath Academy welcomes students from varied ethnic and religious backgrounds. Information about places to worship is provided to all students. The College is sympathetic to holiday requests from students, related to religious observance.

We liaise closely with the parents, carer(s) and guardians of all our students. We request students to have a nominated person (guardian) in the UK whom we can contact. This information is placed in the student's personal file and also recorded on the database. Parents, carer(s) and guardians are encouraged to telephone or call in at the college at any time for a general discussion regarding any concerns. Students may raise concerns with a range of College staff, (the Principal, their Personal Tutor, their House staff, the Welfare Officer and other student services staff).

There is also an Independent Listener available to boarding students; as described within the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools 11.4., The Independent Listener is a person outside the staff and those responsible for the leadership and governance of the school, who boarders may contact directly about personal problems or concerns at school.

*Reviewed: November 2023*

*Next review: November 2024*

*Responsible Officer: James Knott*