



## STATEMENT OF BOARDING PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE AT SIDCOT SCHOOL

### **Our Vision and Principles**

Our boarding community at Sidcot strives to create a supportive, respectful, and inclusive environment where each boarder can flourish academically, socially, and personally. We believe in fostering independence, resilience, and compassion, while nurturing a sense of responsibility and integrity. Our boarding experience is designed to help boarders develop the skills, values, and friendships that will last a lifetime. Our Boarding principles at Sidcot are also focused on offering the option of **a Quaker Boarding Education**, providing **a stable home and schooling for children** as well as enhancing their **educational choice**.

### **Our aims in Boarding**

Ensuring that each boarder experiences the following:

- A happy, safe and comfortable 'family' environment.
- Freedom from bullying and any form of abuse.
- A structured routine within the demands of schoolwork and the need for time to relax.
- The opportunity to take part in activities either as an individual or member of the community.
- Encouragement and support in meeting the requirements of Sidcot's curriculum.
- Regular communication with parent(s) and / or Guardians
- The support of House Staff with advice whenever needed.
- The opportunity to grow and develop as an independent and self-reliant person, expecting when appropriate to take part in the full life of the School.
- Equal opportunities in ethnic, cultural, linguistic, religion, gender and disability matters.
- A healthy lifestyle, particularly with respect to alcohol and drug abuse, smoking and healthy eating.
- An induction to Boarding.
- An environment which has been assessed for risk and care to reduce / minimise those risks.

### **Our Boarding Practices:**

Our ethos at Sidcot School is based upon **a family approach to Boarding** where all members of the community should feel **a sense of belonging and inclusion**. The staff at Sidcot endeavour to maintain a **supportive and safe environment** where young people can grow and develop into independent, responsible adults. In return it is expected that Boarders make the most of the opportunities available to them. We also follow specific points listed below to ensure that the boarders' experience is the best possible.

## **1. Daily Routines and Structure**

- Daily schedules balance academic, recreational, and personal time to support healthy routines and good time management.
- Staff supervision and guidance are provided throughout the day to ensure students feel supported and to foster a productive daily rhythm.

## **2. Personal Space and Conduct**

- Students are encouraged to respect each other's personal space and belongings, creating a harmonious and comfortable living environment.
- Rooms and communal areas are to be maintained in a clean and orderly manner, with students taking shared responsibility for their upkeep.

## **3. Health and Wellness Resources**

- Our health centre offers medical care and counselling support. Mental health resources are accessible to all students in need.
- Wellness programs, including physical activity, nutrition education, and relaxation techniques, are offered to encourage healthy lifestyle choices.

## **4. Communication and Parental Involvement**

- Open communication between staff, students, and parents is encouraged to ensure a transparent and supportive boarding experience.
- Parents are welcome to reach out with questions or concerns, and regular updates are provided to keep them informed of their child's progress and experiences.

## **5. Behavioural Standards and Disciplinary Measures**

- Our boarding community follows a clear code of conduct to maintain a respectful and supportive environment.
- Any breach of this code is addressed in a fair, consistent manner, with a focus on reflection, understanding, and restorative action.

To ensure our Boarders are cared for in a supportive and safe environment to meet the needs of our Community, it is vital that all Boarding members of staff are fully inducted in the ways of Boarding and particularly Boarding in the House in which they work and the young people live. To this end an Induction programme has been created based in line with the Boarding Schools National Minimum Standards.

### **Commitment to Continuous Improvement**

We are committed to ongoing evaluation and improvement of our boarding program to meet the evolving needs of our students and families. Feedback from students, parents, and staff plays a crucial role in helping us enhance the boarding experience, ensuring it remains a place where students thrive.