



SAINT FELIX SCHOOL

SOUTHWOLD

Statement of Boarding Principles; Our Aims and Ethos

This is what we aim to do for you:

What are WE trying to achieve?

Whilst you may board in the first instance from necessity, the boarding experience can and should be a very positive one. Boarding is never quite like home life but it does have some distinct advantages. It should be friendly, supportive, good fun and an excellent preparation for independent life at university or later.

There are three main aspects to boarding;

Supporting you

We want to provide you with a **safe** environment, with adults who **care** and can lead the house, keeping closely in touch with your parents or guardians, and also where you will have friends and older more experienced pupils to **help you**. There will need to be a balance between time to work, and time to play, and there will need to be a normal parent's concern to see that you eat well, sleep well and are not bullied.

Living with others in a sharing community

Living with up to thirty other teenagers is very different from life at home! For a start there have to be **clear rules and expectations** so that everyone is treated fairly. You may also find yourself sharing a room, particularly when you are younger. This can be great **fun**, but it does demand consideration for others so that little niggles don't become big rows. You may be asked to help with regular jobs within the house, which might be a pain at first but it means that you will be well experienced by the time you get your student flat at university. As you get older you may be given **responsibilities**, to supervise younger ones or keep an eye on some aspect of house life. This too will stand you in very good stead when you find yourself managing other people in later life.

Encouraging your independence

Whilst there will always be **supportive adults around**, and a reassuring structure to the day, you will begin to take your own decisions more and more. Small issues that you would automatically take to mum or dad, can be taken to your house-parents too, but you will probably find that you sort most of them out **yourself**. Your school homework will initially be done in regular prep sessions, but increasingly you will develop your own patterns of work and self-discipline. We will gradually give you freedom in other ways as you show that you can cope and can use your initiative.