

Sidestrand Hall School



Statement of Boarding Principles and Practice

Date of policy:

Policy Review Date:

Signed :[Headteacher]

Date:

Signed :[Chair of Governors]

Date:

Statement of Boarding Principles and Practice

Our aim is to enable each boarder to build confidence and self-esteem through the development of social and independence skills, in an environment which is happy, safe and encouraging.

The importance of children with learning disabilities developing independence and social skills can never be over-stated.

They are an extremely vulnerable group and need all the life skills they can develop to help them when they undergo the period of transition from school and are integrated into mainstream colleges and work.

The accommodation provided enables small group living in a supportive and safe environment.

The residential accommodation is divided into 4 units within the main house plus a detached house within the school grounds. The accommodation comprises of a 9 bed unit (Poppyland), 5 bed unit (Barclay Court), 4 bed unit (Nelsons Nest), Autism specific units 2 bed unit (The Flat) and 6 bed unit (Clement Lodge).

The residential experience enables individuals to develop skills, for example, in:

- appropriate social interaction and tolerance of others
- care of clothing
- planning, preparing meals and budgeting
- shopping and handling money
- kitchen safety and hygiene

Social interaction is a valuable part of the residential experience. Our aims are to increase levels of tolerance and awareness of the needs of others, as well as to develop self-confidence within the individual. There are group discussions and group activities which address issues such as alcohol and drug abuse, family situations and relationships. These sessions are aimed at raising an awareness of skills that may help members to develop and maintain positive relationships with peers and adults. Such positive relationships are encouraged as is an understanding of the beneficial effect that good relationships can have. Individuals are encouraged to take part in group activities to the level of their ability.

Individuals are encouraged to use their free time constructively and pursue any special interest they have, within school and in their own local community. We will encourage new interests and build on those the individual has.

Each individual is helped to recognise and accept his/her own educational and physical capabilities, as well as take responsibility for their behaviour and be aware of the consequences some types of behaviour may have. The correct communication aids will be used to support the needs of the individual. The units will provide routine and structure in a safe environment, with Clement Lodge creating a low arousal environment for its boarders.

The units are well-equipped and provide individuals with the opportunity to develop practical and independence skills such as meal planning, budgeting, shopping and cooking. These facilities enable individuals to become aware of all aspects of kitchen safety, with members of staff ensuring that procedures are followed properly, therefore minimising the risk of accident. It is expected that all staff will display the same standards of care and safety.

There is a working policy regarding the importance of healthy eating and maintaining a balanced diet. An awareness of hygiene, "sell by" dates, and the correct storage of food in the fridge/freezer and food cupboards is also taught. There is input on table manners and eating habits.

Individuals are taught all aspects of clothes care, washing (machine and hand), ironing, mending, using coat hangers and storage.

Personal hygiene, bed-making and dressing skills are areas covered to further develop of independence skills.

Practical experience is given on the use of the telephone, public transport (planning and journey using a timetable) and knowledge of locations of important services within local and own community.

Individuals are encouraged to develop a sense of care and responsibility for their own living area and to respect the property and privacy of others within the group. Encouragement is given to individuals to think for themselves, use their own initiative and to take an active part in decision making. The positive atmosphere will encourage individuals to make a positive contribution.

Members of staff should always knock on bedroom doors and wait for a response before entering unless it is thought that a child may be at risk.

Sidestrand adopts a Single Equalities policy.

All children are treated equally and given the same opportunities to develop skills, regardless of gender, race, cultural or religious beliefs. Individual wishes will be respected at all times. Pupils with disabilities will be given equality of treatment at all times. Our aim is to promote equality for all.

It is our policy to involve parents as much as possible in all aspects of their child's welfare. Parents are made aware of Child Protection, Complaints and Anti-Bullying procedures through information in the school brochure.

There is a Whole School Behaviour Policy, which is adopted by the Residential provision as part of the 24 hour curriculum and is based on praise and reward.

Our ultimate aim for all individuals is that they reach their maximum potential and achieve the highest level of independence possible. We aim to support boarders in the development of skills which will enable them to cope with the challenges of every day life in the community.