Boarding Statement

To be read in conjunction with:

• Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
• Boarding Staff Handbook and Student Handbooks

Introduction

The imperative of safeguarding, as outlined in KCSIE September 2024, and applied through The Purcell School's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, underpins our entire approach to boarding. Boarding house teams understand they have a 'duty of care' to safeguard and promote the welfare of all students, and to work in partnership with students, staff, parents, wider pastoral teams and external agencies, as appropriate, to best fulfil this duty of care and to ensure the wellbeing and personal development of each individual student.

The strong pastoral framework at The Purcell School provides the foundation for students to fulfil their potential, recognise and develop their strengths in different areas of their lives and flourish in the belief that they are valued and respected.

Our aim at The Purcell School is to ensure that the environment is one where the focus is on praise and encouragement where boundaries are set clearly and gently. Students are expected to value the school rules and know what is expected of them, developing high standards for their own behaviour. Ultimately, we hope that all individuals will leave The Purcell School as young adults who value and respect each other, the natural world and most importantly, themselves.

We are also mindful of the need for life at The Purcell School to uphold the Fundamental British Values of Democracy, the Rule of Law, the promotion of Individual Liberty, and Respect and Tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs.

The School is continually appraising boarding provision to enable it to constantly improve its care for boarders; the School welcomes both parental and student input in helping it to meet its aims.

The Boarding Ethos Derives From:

- House communities which promote mutual respect, kindness and honesty amongst all their members, students and staff.
- House communities in which students are known and valued as individuals.
- An atmosphere based on trust and a shared understanding of the 'duty of care', where students feel able to approach all members of staff confident in the knowledge that they will be listened to and treated with respect. They know that staff seek their views on boarding life, value them and take them seriously. They also feel able to simply share good things that have happened as well as seeking support when challenges arise.
- An atmosphere in which students are accountable for their individual actions and play their part in helping staff fulfil their duty of care towards them.
- An atmosphere which promotes an understanding of each others' differences, inclusion and kindness – and where bullying, harassment and intolerance are recognised as unacceptable.
- An environment which facilitates a strong sense of respect and understanding for students from different countries and cultures and celebrates diversity within the community, engendering a

good understanding of equality and diversity within the school and wider community.

- An inclusive, safe space where there is clear support for a safe, open learning environment free of slurs. No insults related to ability, appearance, culture, gender, first language, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or social class will be tolerated. Students are aware that gender reassignment, sex, sexual orientation, religion or belief, race, disability and age are all Protected Characteristics. These expectations are rooted in education, helping to raise both awareness and empathy about the harm done by slurs.
- An environment which enables students to develop their academic and musical talents through well-structured study time, good routines, the promotion of personal self-discipline and healthy lifestyles, including a good understanding of the importance of good sleep hygiene and nutrition.
- An environment where a range of activities, hobbies and opportunities for leadership and initiative assist in the personal, social and cultural development of each student.
- An environment which is comfortable, suited to the needs of students and which recognises that, although living together in a close community, staff and pupils acknowledge the right of each other to privacy.
- An environment that is, as far as possible, free from physical hazards and dangers of any sort so that all students at The Purcell School are allowed to thrive within a safe and happy environment.

The Boarding Ethos Will:

- Develop students' responsibility, respect and kindness towards each other, the natural world and most importantly themselves.
- Encourage all students to take responsibility for their personal development. Through regular self-reflection and exploration with their Houseparent and/or Boarding Mentor all students recognise where their individual character strengths lie and what they can do to nurture these strengths to fulfil their potential. Everyone is also encouraged to look beyond their natural strengths and, in a supportive environment, challenge themselves to reach beyond their limits, taking risks and learning the importance of failure for personal growth.
- Develop students' qualities of leadership and ability to work productively and positively as part of a team as well as consistently listening to and standing up for others to ensure the house remains a safe and inclusive space.
- Encourage students to contribute to the needs and welfare of others in the house and school, as well as those in the wider community through opportunities such as the school's outreach programme
- Celebrate the contribution and achievement of students in all areas of school life, individually and collegially.

Policy author	***Policy date/review date:***	***Next review due:***
KC	September 2021	September 2022
KC	September 2022	September 2023
JM	September 2023	September 2024
JM	April 2024	September 2024
JM	September 2024	September 2025
JM	September 2025	September 2026
JM	July 2026	September 2027

Russian Language

Mandarin Language

Cantonese Language

Italian Language

Ukrainian Language