

# STATEMENT OF BOARDING PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

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At Benenden we aim to provide each pupil with a safe, secure and stimulating second home. The experience of working and living together within a close-knit community, of learning to understand other people, as well as appreciating diversity and compromise are hallmarks of Benenden Boarding. We place a great emphasis on personal growth and self-knowledge and our purposeful, participatory community enables the pupils to enjoy all that life in a boarding school has to offer.

### **Benenden Boarding's Practice:**

1. We are an all-girls, all-boarding school. The pupils live in six Lower School houses for the 11-16 year olds and four Sixth Form houses (Founders). When pupils move to the Sixth Form, they maintain allegiance, participate in activities and lead their Lower School Houses.
2. The Houses are managed by a teaching Housemistress/master (Hm), a Deputy (DHm) and an experienced pastoral team of Matrons and Tutors.
3. House staff are in regular contact with parents in order to support their daughters' boarding lives.
4. The students are encouraged to find the right balance between staying in, making the most of the Weekend Programme or taking one of their regular exeat.
5. In the Lower School, pupils live in dormitories, whilst in Founders they live in single study bedrooms and the boarding provision changes to reflect something more akin to a halfway house between school and university.
6. The boarding provision is managed centrally to ensure uniformity of our safeguarding and boarding systems, protocols and procedures across the houses.

### **Benenden Boarding's Principles in terms of outcomes:**

1. **Pupils learn to look after themselves successfully**, confidently enjoying the experience of living away from home, organising their working week, their leisure time and their personal routines.
2. **Independence:** as they grow through the school, the pupils become self-disciplined, resilient, resourceful and self-reliant.
3. **Pupils learn to understand one another better**, to be tolerant, to compromise, to care for and support each other, to respect differences, and to show compassion and kindness.
4. Pupils grow to appreciate **the value of community** through living in a boarding house. They develop a strong sense of loyalty and inclusivity, promoting and sharing its ethos and spirit.
5. **Pupils exercise responsibility within the community** by contributing to the life of their Lower School and Sixth Form Houses, through participation, service and leadership.
6. By having the opportunity to make many small decisions about their daily lives, **pupils learn to get things wrong and to try again.**
7. Pupils make **the most of the fun** you can have in boarding, living life to the full.