

# STATEMENT OF BOARDING PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

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The purpose of this statement is to provide guidance to employees of Benenden School (Kent) Limited and its subsidiaries (collectively 'Benenden' or 'the School').

At Benenden we aim to provide each pupil with a safe, secure and stimulating place to learn. The experience of working and living together within a close-knit community, of learning to understand and appreciate other people, and embracing 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. Our School values of courage, courtesy, confidence, and compassion are embodied through Benenden Boarding.

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

1. Boarding, whether as a full boarder or a day pupil, is at the heart of the Benenden experience. Established in 1923, Benenden's founders aimed to provide young women with the best possible education. An inclusive and progressive community, we embrace the diverse identities of all our boarders and the unique value each person adds to our school.
2. Formed of one Lower School, Five Middle School and four Sixth Form Houses known as Founders, our boarding model enables Benenden students to form strong, loyal, supportive relationships with peers and staff.
3. Each House is run by an experienced House team formed of a Housemistress/master (Hm), Deputy Hms (DHms) and an experienced pastoral team of Matrons and Visiting House Tutors, the Medical Centre team and the Chaplaincy team. They are supported by our Academic Tutors, Resident Graduate Tutors, and Housekeeping teams.
4. Our boarders' families are integral to the success of our model: The House teams work collaboratively with them to ensure that our boarders thrive during their time with us, and we can give them truly individualised care.
5. Balance is key to our boarders' happiness: we encourage a holistic approach to their wellbeing, making the most of the myriad opportunities we offer during the school week and through our Weekend Programme, whilst also having rich home lives and relaxation time.
6. Learning to live together cohesively is developed through communal living: in the Lower and Middle School, boarders share dormitories with their peers, whilst building a House family of different year groups. As the bridge between school and adult life, Founders encourages independence through single and double rooms, shared social spaces and increased personal responsibilities and leadership opportunities.
7. Benenden's boarding provision is managed centrally to ensure consistency in our safeguarding systems, protocols, and procedures. This ensures the highest standard of boarding practice across the school.

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

1. **Confidence:** Benenden boarders grow through the experience of living away from home. They can manage their daily lives well, be this academic work, co-curricular activities, or social and leisure time.
2. **Independence:** through boarding, our students learn self-discipline, resourcefulness and self-reliance.
3. **Compassion:** through living in a diverse community, boarders develop empathy. They learn social diplomacy and compromise, and how to care for and support each other with kindness.
4. **Belonging:** each boarder's diverse identity is recognised and celebrated. Our inclusive community is actively anti-discriminatory.
5. **Community:** boarders value their community through living in a boarding house. They develop a strong sense of loyalty and inclusivity, promoting and sharing its ethos and spirit.
6. **Responsibility:** through participation, service and leadership, our boarders learn responsibility towards others and for their own actions and behaviour.
7. **Resilience:** through having the opportunity to make decisions in their daily lives, students learn to cope with setbacks and overcome challenges.
8. **Fun:** Benenden boarders make the most of their time here. They have rich experiences, build strong friendships, and live life to the full.

### Benenden Aims and Values

Benenden aims to give each pupil a Complete Education in which she realises her academic potential, grows as an individual and is well prepared for life beyond school. A Complete Education combines the focus on academic achievement, personal development and engendering a firm understanding of the world in which we live. Above all, we want pupils to relish all that life in a boarding school has to offer, to enjoy learning, develop intellectual curiosity and be ambitious, whilst learning to achieve balance in their life.

In all that we do at Benenden, we foster the need to value oneself and others. In so doing, we expect each pupil to be a responsible and considerate citizen and we support them to grow into a confident, positive young person. By emphasising the importance of spiritual and personal growth, we help to develop self-knowledge, to become outward looking, courageous and compassionate, so that our students will be inspired to make a difference both to our school community and throughout their lives for the benefit of others.

The constant reinforcement of the four guiding values underpinning our work are **confidence, compassion, courage and courtesy.**