

PASTORAL CARE POLICY – THE FRAMEWORK

The foundation of the Pastoral Care Framework is the House system and the prime responsibility for a boy's welfare and progress at the School lies with his Housemaster. There are seven Boarding and five Day Houses.

All boarding Housemasters are assisted in their pastoral duties by an assistant Housemaster, a team of five House Tutors and a House Matron. House Matrons are accessible to all boarders for long periods of time during any given day. They take responsibility for a wide range of the needs of boarders, including medical help, laundry, hospital, or dental trips, but they also offer invaluable pastoral, wellbeing and health support as well as a ready ear to listen to boys' problems. A Boarding House is manned by a responsible adult (Housemaster, Assistant Housemaster, Tutor, Matron, Housemaster's wife, or other member of staff) throughout any given 24-hour period during term-time.

Day Housemasters have a team of five House Tutors to assist them, including manning the House for periods of time during the week. There are inevitably longer periods during the day, such as teaching periods, when day Houses may be left unmanned by adults. Only Sixth Form boys should be in the House during study periods. At such times boys are always within easy reach of the main School buildings, have access to emergency contact numbers and telephones.

The role of Assistant Housemasters and House Tutors is to support the Housemaster in their general pastoral duties on a regular basis, but also to take specific responsibility for a group of boys within a House. This takes the form of academic advice, particularly when reports are circulated, but also pastoral support and encouragement. The House Pastoral Team will be involved in a wide range of House activities. Tutors for boys in the first year are also encouraged to give additional support. Housemasters appoint some boys in their top year as House Praepostors (Praes) to assist them in running the House and helping to solve problems involving the welfare of other boys. School Praes are appointed by the Headmaster to help him and the Second Master in a similar way in the School. These Praes receive induction training at the start of their term of office and are subject to continual supervision and monitoring of their role.

The School pays particular attention to the need for boys to have access to different members of staff for advice and help. The Deputy Head Pastoral oversees the welfare of all boys on a whole School basis. The Lower Master oversees the first three years and co-ordinates pastoral initiatives and campaigns on a whole School basis. The School Chaplain can be approached at any time as a further source of advice and help and spend time in all the Houses both at lunch and in the evenings over the course of each term. In addition, all boys are made aware that the School Counsellor is available 4 ½ days a week to see in confidence. An Independent Person (an adult outside School) is also available for boys. The Welfare Group meets regularly under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Head Pastoral to monitor specific welfare issues.

The Medical Centre staff are available 24-hours a day during term-time and a School Doctor is on duty every weekday morning. Boarders may make confidential appointments with a School Doctor or with any other Doctor at the local practice (Warders Medical Centre).

All boys have the opportunity to contribute their views on aspects of the Pastoral system through a School Council, House Councils and Food Committees. There is also a clearly stated complaints procedure for boys and others wishing to make formal complaints about any aspects of School life. The whole Pastoral system is formally monitored and supervised by the Deputy Head Pastoral (who is also the Designated Safeguarding Lead), and by the Governors' Pastoral Committee. They report respectively to the Headmaster, and to the Governors of the School.