



St. Francis' College

Boarding Provision for Pupils with Particular Religious, Dietary, Language or Cultural Needs Policy

Introduction

The 'College' refers to all the staff and pupils of the Prep Department and Senior School which includes Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), Pre-Prep (Key Stage 1), Prep (Key Stage 2), and Senior School (Key Stages 3-5).

This policy has been written in line with Part A (Governance, leadership and management) Standard 3 (Inclusion, equality and diversity), Part B (Boarding Provision) Standard 6 (Provision and preparation of food and drinks) and Part H (Boarders' development) Standard 18 (Activities and free time) of the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools (5 September 2022).

Inclusion, equality and diversity

Boarders are not discriminated against, paying attention to the legally protected characteristics and requirements set out in the Equality Act 2010. In addition, boarders are not discriminated against because of their cultural background, linguistic background, special educational needs, or academic or sporting ability. (NMS 3.1)

These factors are taken into account in the care of boarders at the College, so that care is sensitive to different needs and an inclusive environment is promoted within the College. (NMS 3.1)

Religious Needs

Boarders are able to attend their chosen place of worship and are encouraged to share their religious beliefs. The boarding community celebrate different faiths while continuing to fulfil the Christian ethos of the school.

Dietary Needs

Individual dietary needs are met by the catering and boarding departments working closely together. The specific dietary needs of Boarders are known to both the catering and the boarding staff.

Information on individual dietary needs is sought from parents through the initial recruitment documentation and medical questionnaires. Changes to requirements should be notified to boarding staff or nurses, who will then notify the Catering Manager.

Provision and preparation of food and drinks

All boarders, including those with special dietary, medical or religious needs, are provided with good quality, nutritionally balanced meals with choice and variety and of sufficient quantity. (NMS 6.1)

Good quality facilities are provided for the hygienic preparation, serving and consumption of boarders’ main meals. The dining room is situated in the Braodway building, where the boarders are accommodated. (NMS6.2)

In addition to main meals, boarder have access to drinking water in the Boarding House and food such as fresh fruit, cereals and bread. Boarders are able to prepare snacks and light meals in the evenings and weekends, under the supervision of boarding staff. The College recognises that boarders will wish to prepare food and drinks that are common to their culture or home environments. Boarding staff are sensitive to the needs of boarders in this respect. (NMS6.3)

Language and Cultural Needs

The Boarders’ Council helps to organise and plan social events such as the Christmas Party, Lunar New Year and various cultural events and national festivals. The Boarding Council liaises appropriately with boarding and catering staff.

The Boarding House has a ‘speak English only’ rule in the Dining Room and Games Room, and through the activity programme provides weekly EAL support to the boarders. Boarders are able to speak in their own languages in other areas of the Boarding House, such as the common rooms and bedrooms, and are not discouraged from doing so.

The boarders are encouraged to stay in touch with their own culture through contact with friends and family, TV, internet and world news. They have access to information about events in the world outside College and access to local facilities which are appropriate to their age, for example newspapers and magazines, local cinema and shops. (NMS 18.5)

Reviewed By	Head of Boarding
Authorised By	Head
Effective From	January 2023
Next Review Due	January 2024