



**EF ACADEMY**

International  
Boarding Schools

# Statement of Boarding Practices and Principles

## **The Philosophy of Boarding**

EF Academy Torbay is an independent international boarding school for students aged from 14-19. Many of our students are studying and living away from home for the first time and we recognise the importance of a supportive and nurturing boarding environment to their academic success and personal development.

The safety and well-being of our students is our highest priority. Boarding works closely in conjunction with the day school to ensure that students receive excellent academic guidance and pastoral care. We provide detailed training, including in safeguarding, to all staff and adults that are in regular contact with our students.

By creating a tolerant and student-centred environment, the staff at EF Academy Torbay are best placed to guide and shape the lives of the boys and girls in our care. The boarding experience at the School instils in students a sense of respect, humanity and moral courage, whilst at the same time acknowledging that all need resilience to face the challenges that school and life will bring. To this end, boarders leave EF Academy Torbay as well-rounded individuals equipped to deal with the rigours of diverse and changing social landscapes. Although the school is a very busy place, there is time for the creation of a family atmosphere amongst the boarding community both in residences and in host families

## **Boarding Practice**

The Head of School has overall responsibility for boarding and the welfare of all students and reports directly to the Head Teacher. This includes responsibility for the school's boarding residences. Key issues concerning the safety, care and welfare of boarders are discussed and considered in Senior Leadership Team meetings, the Pastoral Board meetings and the Student Casework Group.

The Head of School has management responsibility for the Head of Boarding and Deputy Head of Boarding who will oversee the pathway management and health concerns of the students. The residence House Parents report to the Head of Boarding, and they hold responsibility for student discipline in residence.

The Head of School is the Designated Lead for Safeguarding and ensures that all employees of the school have received the relevant level of safeguarding training and that this training is refreshed regularly and in-line with best practice guidance.

The Head of Boarding is Deputy DSL. The Deputy Head of Boarding also holds current Level 3 Safeguarding training.

## **Boarding Accommodation**

Boarding accommodation is provided within two Boarding Residence Buildings.

## **Boarding Residence**

The school provides boarding accommodation in two locations over two buildings in shared rooms with shared bathroom facilities. The residences are approximately a ten minute walk from the school. The residence caters for both genders and all ages, although the school will define particular buildings by gender, and areas of the buildings by age.

The boarding residences are leased under contract by the school from the proprietor of the property.

Boarding Residence Locations:

Brampton Court Building, St Luke's Road South, Torquay – boarding residence for Male students

Torre House, Falkland Road, Torquay – boarding residence for Female students

Pastoral care and welfare in the residence is supervised by a designated House Parents who 'live in' the residence and are on-call overnight. House Parents are trained to fulfill their roles effectively, including being qualified first aiders and have undergone vetting procedures as defined by the schools recruitment and selection policy and safer recruitment practices prior to their employment with the school.

The Residences have their own social and recreation space, dining facility, including a space for boarders to prepare and consume snacks and refreshments and study/ICT facilities. The House Parents' work in conjunction with the School's Enrichment and Activities team provide to a programme of activities for evenings and weekends. All students are provided with a personal safe to allow for the secure storage of items of value.

The school welcomes students of all faiths and cultures and values the diversity that this brings. Both the School and Residence provide access to a Prayer room and contemplative space.

### **Medical Needs**

The medical support staff provide support and advice to students on all health, well-being and medical matters. The Head of Boarding is responsible for the implementation of all health, well-being and medical policies with oversight by the Head of School.

Dedicated medical facilities are available in both the school and boarding residences. Out of hours' access is provided by the local GP surgery and hospital and all students are registered with a doctor.

### **Providing Feedback or Making a Complaint about our Boarding Accommodation**

Students are encouraged to complete a centrally generated survey each term. This gives the School important feedback on the quality of our boarding accommodation and our facilities. Students who have immediate issues are asked to speak with Boarding or Academic staff members. Any concerns or issues will be dealt with promptly.

Students can also share their feedback via the regular student council and residential house meetings.

Formal complaints can be made by following the school's complaints policy, a copy of which can be obtained from the school website <http://www.ef.co.uk/academy/campuses/torbay/>

### **Boarding Principles**

The boarding community at EF Academy Torbay is varied and diverse. Boarders have a range of backgrounds and needs. It is the stated aim at the School to be able to treat all boarders as individuals and provide an environment in which all may flourish.

#### **Boarding at EF Academy Torbay is based on the following principles:**

- The development of the whole person: physically, spiritually, intellectually, morally, socially and emotionally in an atmosphere of positive encouragement.
- Mutual respect and the right to be treated as an individual.
- The right of the individual not to suffer any form of abuse.
- An equality of opportunities.
- Comfortable accommodation that even though shared still acknowledges the right to privacy.
- Supportive links with parents, guardians and where appropriate educational guardians

In addition to addressing physical needs and a sense of security and safety, EF Academy Torbay seeks to contribute to its pupils' development in their sense of belonging, self-esteem, self-respect and self-realisation.

#### **Aims and objectives:**

- To develop positive relationships between boarders, staff and parents.
- To provide a range of experiences and opportunities and conditions that will encourage self- development: physically, spiritually, intellectually, morally, socially and emotionally
- To develop an open and trusting ethos in which boarders are confident that they will be treated with respect as an individual.
- To create an atmosphere in which any form of bullying would have difficulty flourishing.
- To develop a sense of responsibility for self, others and the environment.
- To develop boarders' qualities of leadership and the ability to work as part of a team.

These aims and objectives are continually reviewed against the ongoing EFAT boarding development plan and in keeping with EF's strategic plan for the school.