

Cargilfield School Boarding Policy

**History**

Cargilfield was the first prep school in Scotland, founded in 1873, and was historically a full boarding school for 8-13 year old boys.

The approach to boarding changed most significantly at the turn of the century when the need for more day children, flexible boarding and a desire to avoid Saturday school were addressed.

More recently, the boarding at Cargilfield has settled down to a more flexible model

**Rationale**

Boarding offers children the chance of a broader curriculum and the chance to develop their independence, resilience, organisation and social skills.

Over 50% of our children currently experience some boarding during their time at the School. This figure grows to almost 100% when you consider the boarding weekends aimed at specific year groups.

More than 3/4 of our children go on to schools that are boarding schools. Even if they attend Fettes, Merchiston, Loretto as day pupils, they often have a much longer day and may become boarders during their time at senior school.

Cargilfield is traditionally a boarding school and offers the facilities to manage a boarding community.

A school that has a life beyond the end of the conventional school day offers parents greater flexibility and has more of a ‘soul’.

We strive for a broad curriculum but do find it difficult to squeeze everything in to a five-day week when many of our rivals in England have six days. The presence of boarding helps us to get the very most out of the school week and term.

**Structure**

We no longer host full or two weekly boarders but can accommodate children for weekly boarding (Monday to Thursday evening inclusive).

Children can also flexi board during the week for 1-3 nights as they prefer. We no longer allow children to board occasionally because their parents will be away from home. However, children who already have a regular boarding commitment are welcome to extend their evenings with very little notice.

Children are also encouraged to join us for boarding weekends which frequently during the term. These will either cater for mixed age groups (often with a specific theme) or for a specific year group and run from after school on Friday until 4pm on Sunday.

The School might best be described as having a ‘boarding culture’ as children from Form 4 upwards enjoy a school day that is compulsory until 5.30pm. All these Upper School children are allowed to stay for supper and may also stay for evening clubs, about 7 or 8 of which run each evening. Children are expected to commit to these for a full half-term.

Boarders join in with this programme of evening clubs and the School is, therefore, still very busy until the boarding routine begins at 7.30pm

**Personnel**

Lindsay Kerr is Head of Boarding. He and his wife, Lizzie, take charge of the boarding. They are directly supported by

* Taisie Pennick (Houseparent for girls)
* Cuan Taylor (Houseparent for boys)
* Alan Pike (In charge of boarding activities)

Other members of staff are involved in boarding, especially the GAP students/Graduate Assistants. The Headmaster and his wife continue to play an active part in the life of boarders.

* Since 2008, new staff have been contracted to offer two evening activities. In practice, this is now rarely more than one evening per week.
* Since 2012, Upper School staff have been contracted to offer one boarding weekend per term.

**Numbers**

Current Care Inspectorate Guidelines suggest that we can host 60 boarders at any one time and it would not be difficult to re-configure the boarding areas and the first floor classrooms to increase that number. We have been granted dispensation to extend these numbers for specific occasions such as the popular Christmas boarding weekend.

At present, weekly boarding numbers vary from about 10-20 during the year. Another 20-30 children will regularly board on a flexible basis. There are generally about 50 children (out of an Upper School of about 170 children) with a regular boarding commitment. This number tends to grow during the Summer Term.

**Other features of Cargilfield boarding**

* Evening clubs are suspended on the last night of term and there will usually be a boarders feast/other treats that evening.
* Boarding staff meet formally at the start of term to discuss matters relating to boarding. An agenda and minutes are generally published. There are, however, many other meetings of the team throughout the term.
* Boarders meet twice a term as a Boarders’ Council to review their experience.
* The Care Inspectorate inspect boarding at Cargilfield. These inspections take place on a two or three yearly basis. The last inspection was in September 2023 and the inspection report is available on the website.

**Mattresses**

In order to maintain standards of hygiene and the comfort of the boarders, the following standards are important.

1. Protectors
2. Bed wetter to have a special protection sheet
3. Mattress replaced every 10 years or if damaged

All mattress should be maintained to the highest standard. Mattress must meet health and safety requirement i.e. fire retardant.

We will have a rolling mattress replacement programme which will entail new mattress every 10 years. However, if a mattress has been damaged in anyway it will be replaced before the 10 years replacement programme.

Mattresses are to be rotated around the dorms depending on the number of boarders.

All mattress will be covered by a mattress protectors which will fit correctly .There should not be any stains or rips on any protector. If any mattress protectors are in poor condition then it must be replaced with a better one.

All bed sheets should fit the mattress correctly.

On occasions when a known bed wetter or sick child is using the bed a special mattress protector should be used. A protector which has a plastic sheet attached to the back.

Rob Taylor

Headmaster

March 2023