



RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN BOARDING PUPILS POLICY	
Warwick Schools Foundation	
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Relationships between Boarding Pupils

Introduction:

The aim of this policy is to give guidance to both staff and pupils about the appropriateness of relationships and behaviour between boarding pupils in the Warwick Schools Foundation. It deals specifically with boarding pupils and the expectations with regards to day pupils are set out elsewhere.

The Foundation encourages all its pupils to treat each other with respect and to value the friendships that develop as a natural part of school life. The Foundation upholds the view that sexual relationships should be within consensual, committed, adult relationships, even when pupils are aged 16 or over. The Foundation extends the same rights of equality and fairness to all its pupils irrespective of gender or sexual orientation whilst at the same time ensuring all appropriate safeguarding measures are in place, especially in our boarding community.

The Foundation is aware of the challenges that pupils face in developing relationships and to assist with this, clear boundaries are set, irrespective of whether a relationship is heterosexual or same-sex. These are directed by the Foundation's ethos and dictated by both its pastoral and safeguarding responsibilities.

For example;

Public displays of affection are not appropriate and all pupils, including boarders, must be mindful of this especially in the environment of the boarding houses, school buildings, around the campus and when on school trips.

Boarding pupils may visit friends in other houses but the expectations are clear. They must sign out of their house, indicating where they are going and must sign in when they arrive at the other house. They are only allowed in certain communal rooms of the houses as set out below:

Way House: Visitors are only allowed in the TV room located on the ground floor of the boarding house.

School House: Visitors are only allowed in the TV room located on the 1st floor of the boarding house

Irrespective of the House all visits can only occur after any prep period has been completed and boarders must return to their own house by 9pm (Sun to Thursday) and 10pm (Friday & Saturday)

Where a relationship develops between two pupils in the same house, different rules will apply and the House Parents will speak to the pupils involved setting out clear boundaries and expectations, especially where multi occupancy rooms are involved.

Safeguarding:

Relationships that extend beyond mere friendships are generally inappropriate when there is a significant age difference between those involved. If such a relationship was seen to be developing House Parents will talk to the pupils involved and will, if necessary, inform parents of the concerns they have.

If a relationship develops between two pupils in the same house the Foundations clear policy is that they will not be placed in the same room. If such a relationship was seen to be developing between pupils who already share a room a decision will be made, after discussions with the pupils and, if necessary parents, about whether to change the room allocation.

The showering facilities in our boarding houses are communal. The design of them ensures that pupils may shower and dress in privacy at all times. It is an expectation that all pupils using these facilities will do so with the utmost respect for the privacy of other pupils.

At all times House Parents, who are best placed to observe and determine the status of any relationship, will speak to and counsel pupils as to the expectations of those entering into relationships and also ensure that any such relationships are consensual and appropriate.

Sexual relationships or sexualised behaviour between pupils is always deemed inappropriate, in some cases such relationships may also be illegal. Behaviour such as sexting will also be treated as a very serious matter and may be considered as peer to peer bullying or in certain circumstances abuse. All pupils and indeed all members of the Foundation community should respect the wishes and feelings of others, unwanted attention or breaches of privacy will not be accepted and when they occur will be dealt with appropriately.

When Inappropriate Behaviour Occurs:

Pupils found to be in breach of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action under the relevant school's Behaviour policy. If a pupil is believed to have taken part in inappropriate sexual activity the relevant Safeguarding team will be informed and the appropriate action taken.

If such incident raise child protection or other legal concerns then it will be dealt with in accordance with the school's Safeguarding policy and may have to be referred to the relevant safeguarding partners or, if necessary, to the Police.

Child on Child Abuse:

- Child on child abuse is most likely to include, but may not be limited to :
- Bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying)
- Abuse in intimate personal relationships between children (sometimes known as "teenage relationship abuse")
- Physical abuse such as hitting, kicking etc causing physical harm (this may include and online element which facilitates, threatens and / or encourages sexual violence)
- Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent, such as forcing someone to remove their clothing.
- Consensual and non consensual sharing of nude or semi – nude images or videos
- Initiation / hazing type violence and rituals. This may also be an indicator of wider exploitation such as Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and or Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and or County Lines.

The Foundation recognises that boarding presents specific issues in relation to child on child abuse and all staff, especially those working directly in boarding are experienced and will respond to any and all concerns regarding such abuse appropriately and robustly. We recognise that our initial response to a report of potential child on child abuse is hugely important and that how we respond to a report can encourage or undermine the confidence of future victims to report or come forward.

We have clear reporting systems in place for each group of our Foundation and the effectiveness of these systems is reviewed regularly and amended as necessary

Support

The Foundation is committed to the health and safety of all members of its community and will take action to safeguard the wellbeing of all. The Foundation is also committed to supporting and developing its pupils' understanding about related health and social issues. All pupils are provided with guidance through the schools' PSHE programmes.

Boarding students have and are aware of a large team of people to whom they can speak if they have any concerns about any aspect of their lives. They are also able to speak to an Independent Person, outside of the school hierarchy should they so wish.