

PASTORAL CARE POLICY

Person responsible: Deputy Head(Pastoral)
Reviewed : October 2021

Foreword from the Head:

The King's School, Canterbury is a school founded on the principle of a Christian ethos, based on outstanding pastoral care of young people. Schools which are centred on these values work hard at achieving the special, happy atmosphere (which is palpable at King's), but also the supportive systems for when things (which will always happen from time to time during adolescence) occur. I warmly commend the King's pastoral team headed by Miss Lee.

Policy:

Pastoral care is as an essential part of the school's ethos and is central to the success of the students in the school. It is very hard for students to thrive academically if they are unhappy in another aspect of their life. Similarly, it is difficult for students to be happy if they are not able to cope academically. The two areas of school life are tightly woven together. A carefully integrated (and constantly revised) system of Pastoral Care provides a strong team of staff, each with specific responsibility for looking after the welfare of particular groups of students. The Pastoral staff are able to look at the progress of the students in a broad sense, ensuring that any problems that arise are dealt with quickly and efficiently.

All pupils are members of a House. A pupil's House is the centre of their school life. It is not only a physical base but also, ideally, a community small enough to accord to each of its members the regard and attention of a family. Housemasters and Housemistresses (HsMs) have primary responsibility for the care of those in their houses. King's School pupils are organised into sixteen Houses. Of these, six are for boy boarders, seven for girl boarders and three are mixed Day Houses. There are well organised programmes of induction for all students who are new to the Houses. In addition, there are other key members in the House teams which include the deputy HsMs and the Pastoral Assistants / Matrons. They are available in the houses throughout the days and students can access them as they need to. Students build strong and supportive relationships with all members of their House teams.

Students are also supported through the Tutor System, which has existed at King's since 1886. All academic staff are attached to a house and have a tutor group, consisting of up to twelve pupils. The tutors meet their groups formally in a timetabled period once a week and at other times informally, in the house or in various social contexts. A system of interim reports by teachers enables regular monitoring of academic progress, so that any problems can be identified, and, after discussion, action can be taken. A tutor will get to know tutees well and will encourage their wider interests and participation in co-curricular activities, and the cultural and sporting life of the school. The tutor also plays a key pastoral role in the life of their tutee, those allocated to boarding house tutor groups will be on duty in house one evening a week giving an important opportunity for the development of the tutor / tutee role. In addition to the House-based pastoral system, the Head, the Senior Deputy Head, the Deputy Head (Pastoral), other members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), the Chaplains, the School Psychotherapists and Counsellors, the Pastoral co-ordinator, the Head of Boarding Practice, our Life Coach and the nurses at the Health Centre are available to all students, operating an 'open door' policy for all.

The well-equipped Health Centre is run by a team of fully qualified nurses, it provides continuous twenty-four-hour cover throughout the term. The school has access to a local NHS practice and GPs hold surgeries each weekday at the Health Centre.

The Chaplaincy team is responsible for worship and services in the Cathedral and in the school.

The chaplains are available to staff and pupils, of all religions or none, as friendly advisor and counsellor.

Four qualified school Psychotherapists and Counsellors are available for all students. Appointments may be made confidentially, and all students are made aware of how they can access the counselling facility. A Life Coach is also available one day a week.

A well-staffed Learning Enhancement department helps those with a wide range of learning difficulties and needs.

The Pupil Guidelines *Who Can help You?* are displayed on house noticeboards and are available to all pupils via an intranet link. The guidelines include references to available individuals and organisations outside the school, including the school's independent listeners, Richard and Jennifer Lewellin, and also detail the formal complaints procedure.

The school site is large and with that in mind we do encourage students to carry their mobile phones with them for use in a responsible and appropriate manner and with the phone numbers of their HsM and Matron stored. (There is further information about mobile phone use in the School Rules and the IT Acceptable User policy).

Naturally, all teachers have a responsibility in terms of pastoral care for all the pupils they come across, not just as subject teachers or personal tutors, but in co-curricular activities and in all areas of school life.

Safeguarding

The safeguarding of all our pupils is paramount. The school's DSL is the Deputy Head (Pastoral). The day to day running of safeguarding is managed by the Safeguarding Co-ordinator and all pupils are introduced to them early in their time at the school. Reporting systems are clearly advertised and promoted. Further information can be found in the Safeguarding and Child Protection policy.