



THE  
KING'S SCHOOL  
CANTERBURY

# Pastoral Care Policy

Responsible Person: Deputy Head, Pastoral

Latest Review Completed: February 2026

Next Review Due: February 2028

Summary of changes compared to previous version: small change of titles from mentors to mentors, change of SMT to SMT, updated names for independent listeners

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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.

## **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 Matrons/Pastoral Care Assistants (PCAs). 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 Mentor System, which has existed at King's since 1886. All academic staff are attached to a house and have a mentor group, consisting of approximately twelve pupils. The mentors meet their groups formally in a timetabled period once/twice 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 mentor will get to know mentees well and will encourage their wider interests and participation in co-curricular activities, and the cultural and sporting life of the school. The mentor also plays a key pastoral role in the life of their mentee, those allocated to boarding house mentor groups will be on duty in house one evening a week giving an important opportunity for the development of the mentor / mentee 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 (SMT), the Chaplains, the School Psychotherapists and Counsellors, the Head of Boarding, 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 during the week at the Health Centre.

The Chaplaincy team is responsible for worship, services and assemblies 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.

A team of 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. In addition, a Life Coach is also available one day a week.

A well-staffed Learning Enhancement department helps those with a broad and varied range of learning 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, David Hamilton and Mary Kells, and also detail how to access both our informal (QR code) and formal complaints procedures.

The school site is large and spreads across the city 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/PCA stored. (There is further information about mobile phone use in the School Rules, the IT Acceptable User policy and the Mobile phone acceptable use 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 mentors, 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 Head of Safeguarding and the Deputy Head, Pastoral is the Safeguarding advisor to all three Canterbury Schools. The day to day running of safeguarding is managed by the Head of Safeguarding 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.