

OXFORD INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE BRIGHTON

STATEMENT OF BOARDING PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

IMPLEMENTED BY	Head of Boarding
REVIEWED BY	Principal
REVIEWED DATE	August 2024
NEXT REVIEW	August 2025

OVERVIEW FOR BOARDERS

Boarding at OIC Brighton is fundamental to our aims as a College. The safety, health and wellbeing of our boarding students underpins their ability to thrive academically and personally. The promotion of positive relationships, healthy habits and opportunities for personal development informs our practice in boarding, ensuring that the care and oversight of boarding for all OICB boarding students is age-appropriate, inclusive and enables all students to feel known and cared for. The activities and leadership in boarding seek to develop and promote our OICB values of Ambition, Belonging and Curiosity, supporting our students in their academic aims; creating a sense of community for all and preparing our students for a future in which they can continue to thrive.

ETHOS AND VALUES

At OIC Brighton we want every student to uncover and develop a passion for lifelong learning. We believe that wellbeing and personal development underpin academic excellence and that, for an individual to thrive in their future pathway, they must learn to develop the skills, attributes and understanding of wellbeing that will support their goals.

OIC Brighton students and colleagues are ambitious global citizens. We embrace the power of our international community, celebrating our differences and discovering our shared passions and values. We pride ourselves on our strong sense of community, in the belief that individuals with strong social networks and positive relationships will learn better, explore more and become impactful citizens of the world.

Our three-pillared approach

- Academic Excellence
- Personal Development
- Careers and University Preparation

Our OICB values

- Ambition
- Belonging
- Curiosity

AIMS AND ORGANISATION

OIC Brighton is a co-educational, international boarding College for UK years 9 to 13. It is our aim to ensure that all of our students, regarding less age, gender and nationality, feel themselves to be an integrated part of our College community. Our staff members go out of their way to make our students and their families feel welcome, at home and supported throughout their time at OIC Brighton.

Ours is a rigorous academic programme and our students are ambitious about their future aims and goals. The aim of our boarding environment is to support and strengthen our students in their goals, their hard work and their progress throughout their time at the College. OIC Brighton students have a sense of belonging and know that they are accepted as individuals; that problems will be shared and triumphs celebrated. Living and working within the boarding community provides a safe training ground within which to develop critical life skills in their journey towards adulthood, such as the importance of communication, positive relationships and independence.

All students at OIC Brighton find themselves in a safe and stimulating environment, with well trained, enthusiastic boarding and pastoral teams on hand to encourage, supervise and protect. During their time at OIC Brighton, students are challenged to take on increasing responsibility for the care and leadership of others. In all boarding house there are excellent arrangements for study with designated 'quiet times' and supervision.

There is a structured weekend programme and social events for all ages including local excursions and on campus activities. As a College with a full boarding ethos, students are expected to be in College except when there are specific family celebrations or special events, whilst allowing opportunities for students to leave campus as appropriate to their age and commitments.

It is our intention to extend our sense of community to all parents and guardians, regardless of their location. Acknowledging that a large proportion of OIC Brighton parents are overseas, the College makes every effort to involve parents with communication and opportunities to understand more about the boarding provision, academic programme and their child's progress and wellbeing. This is achieved through regular newsletters, individual communications, webinars, online meetings and calls and invitations to receptions and events at the College. Email and telephone contact details are shared to allow parents to be in frequent contact with their child's boarding houseparent and strategy tutor, and students are encouraged to maintain regular contact with home.

FACILITIES

There are four boarding houses at OIC Brighton.

Ainsworth House	Years 9 – 11	Mixed gender	Ensuite twin rooms
Ovingdean House	Years 11 - 13	Girls only	Twin rooms with shared bathrooms
Turing House	Years 12-13	Mixed gender	Twin rooms with shared bathrooms
Abacus House (off-campus)	Years 12-13	Mixed gender	Single ensuite rooms

In mixed gender houses, students are separated within the house according to age and gender.

Each house has its own range of shared communal spaces and kitchen facilities to allow all OIC Brighton boarders access to a suitable common room; refreshments; drinking water; laundry facilities and wifi. The College internet is filtered to protect all students from online harm.

STUDENT WELFARE AND SUPPORT

Our aim is to create a culture in which students feel listened to and supported, and in which students feel listened to and supported, and in which an individual student has multiple channels of communication should they need guidance, support and advice. All students have a strategy tutor who is their, and their parents', first point of contact. Other adults responsible for students' welfare and support are detailed below:

- The houseparent in each boarding house
- The Deputy Principal Pastoral and Wellbeing, and DSL
- An Independent Listener

A member of the boarding team is on duty at all times and can be contacted by phone using the boarding house duty phone number, including overnight or if the student is off campus.

The safeguarding team comprises the DSL and two Deputy DSLs. All staff are trained in safeguarding best practice and OIC Brighton champions a wellbeing approach that encourages students to thrive throughout their time at the College and beyond.

Induction

The induction process is carefully managed to ensure that boarders feel welcome, understand how to seek support and help and are encouraged to make friends and take up new challenges and opportunities. Students are given access to a Student Handbook and Boarding House Handbook, and posters displayed throughout the College remind students of safeguarding and support. The induction process for boarders will include:

- Fire and lockdown drill procedures
- Access to facilities including the internet and laundry
- Gym induction
- Introduction to the nurse and the processes around feeling unwell or needing medication
- Understanding College rules and code of conduct
- Food hygiene training

Health and Wellbeing

The personal development programme at OIC Brighton encompasses PSHE and Life Skills. Ongoing training and educational programmes for boarders will include:

- Local area risk management including road safety
- Understanding British values and local laws and norms

- Online safety
- Anti-bullying
- Relationships and sex education
- Food and nutrition

All OIC Brighton have Physical Education timetabled during the College week. Boarders also have access to sports facilities including the gym, table tennis and the field and walking paths. Students are encouraged to be physically active. Individual talents are encouraged and developed through connections with local facilities and sports clubs.

The medical centre on campus is staffed by a qualified nurse during the College day, Monday to Friday. All boarders are registered with a local GP practice. Should the need arise, a member of staff will accompany a student to local medical services.

The College counsellor is available for appointments and students can self-refer should they wish to seek counselling whilst at OIC Brighton.

INCLUSION

Our co-educational, multi-cultural environment affords the opportunity for our students to gain a greater understanding and respect for people of different genders, faiths, ethnicities and nationalities to their own. Our Life Skills programme actively encourages OIC Brighton students to engage with ideas and challenges around diversity and varied beliefs and viewpoints, and our academic curriculum reflects the College's internationalism.

OIC Brighton embraces Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging (EDIB) in keeping with Nord Anglia Education's wider aims as an organisation. A member of staff is appointed as EDIB Champion, as is a member of the student council. Opportunities are created for OIC Brighton students to engage with the local environment and to understand their rights and responsibilities while living in the UK, and as global citizens. Opportunities are created throughout the academic year to celebrate the diverse cultures represented in the OIC Brighton community.

PREVENTION OF BULLYING

OIC Brighton acknowledges its responsibility to protect all students against bullying. The OIC Brighton Prevention of Bullying Policy is available on the College website, and aims to prevent bullying of any sort and to ensure that every member of the College community can operate in a supportive, caring and safe environment without fear of being bullied.

In boarding, steps taken to prevent bullying include:

- ensuring all members of staff are familiar with the College's anti-bullying policy;
- training students and staff members in anti-bullying approaches;
- creating opportunities to discuss bullying and its prevention during house meetings and in visual displays in boarding houses;

- ensuring access to suitable external sources of support and advice; and
- promoting an environment where boarders feel confident reporting bullying.

GUARDIANSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

In order to help up to promote and safeguard the welfare of every student at OIC Brighton, we required parents who do not live in the United Kingdom or who are away for an extended period of time to appoint an education Guardian to act on their behalf. The OIC Brighton Guardianship policy is available on the College website.

During term time OIC Brighton is responsible for all students' welfare and takes on delegated parental responsibilities while they are in College. However, there are times when OIC Brighton needs to be able to hand over these parental responsibilities to another adult, who must be a properly appointed Guardian. Such times may include at the beginning and end of terms, during College holidays, in instances of serious disciplinary action or if a student falls seriously ill.

The College will take appropriate and necessary steps to ensure that the guardianship arrangement promotes the welfare, physical wellbeing and emotional wellbeing of the boarder. Any concerns about an educational guardianship arrangement should be acted upon immediately and referred to any relevant agencies.