



SHEBBEAR COLLEGE

STATEMENT OF BOARDING PRINCIPLES & PRACTICE

Introduction

Founded in 1841 and steeped in history, Shebbear College is a thriving day and boarding school for girls and boys aged 4 to 18.

Our 85-acre campus is situated in the beautiful Devon countryside, close to Exmoor and Dartmoor National Parks and the fantastic surfing beaches of the North Cornwall coast.

Life at Shebbear is busy, filled with academic purpose, co-curricular activity, creative discovery and outdoor adventure. Everyone is known and cherished, and life-long friends are made within our supportive and caring environment.

The Boarding handbook provides parents, guardians and boarders with a detailed description of all aspects of boarding at Shebbear College. If you require any further information about our boarding principles and practice at Shebbear College, please e-mail boarding@shebbearcollege.co.uk.

Boarding Principles

Our principles for all pupils (including boarders) are encapsulated in our vision, mission, ethos and values:

Our Vision

We aspire to be nationally and internationally recognised as an innovative and sustainable school at the leading edge of education and wellbeing. Our genuine passion to understand our ambitious pupils as individuals will enable us to develop their potential, inspiring and empowering them to be the very best they can be - academically, socially and morally.

Our Mission

We are a school which truly understands and cares about each individual. Pupils benefit from our smaller size, nurturing community and pioneering methods of teaching and learning. We will challenge and inspire our pupils through interactive, supportive and creative teaching, discovering and devising innovative methods and content to ensure that each individual is getting the very best tailored learning experience throughout their time at Shebbear College. We will shape each individual experience, develop each individual talent and celebrate each individual personality. We will unlock the potential in each pupil inspiring their ambition and passion for learning and for life.

Our Ethos

Our philosophy is based on our six core values: Confidence, Courage, Courtesy, Creativity, Compassion and Curiosity. We encourage our pupils to discover these qualities in themselves, allowing them to grow in mind, body and spirit. As a school with strong Christian foundations, these values permeate everything we do and reinforce our strong Shebbear community.

Our Values

We are extremely proud of our enthusiastic and ambitious pupils, who demonstrate our six Shebbear values in all that they do. These values are continually emphasised and demonstrated within our boarding community.



Boarding Practice

Boarding at Shebbear builds confidence, friendships and develops independence – as well as being a lot of fun! We offer full, weekly and flexi boarding to girls and boys from the ages of 8 - 18 and welcome pupils from across the UK and all over the world.

We have two boarding houses - Pollard and Ruddle. Each house has its own unique identity, but both have the same warm, friendly atmosphere, which you can feel as soon as you walk in. Pupils feel happy, safe and secure and there is always someone to turn to for help, advice or just a chat. Firm friendships are made for life as pupils share the highs and lows of their lives together.

All boarders are supported by our Head of Boarding and dedicated boarding staff. As well as this, pupils are supported during the school day by their Housemaster/Housemistress and tutors, who all share responsibility

for their academic, pastoral and social welfare, giving them the security of a family environment whilst at the same time enjoying the freedom to grow and mature. Our boarding staff are very much part of the family, and our boarders form close bonds with them. They provide an additional role model for boarders and help them to build confidence and independence away from home.

Flexi Boarding

We offer a modern take on boarding and try to be as flexible as possible so that families can tailor boarding to suit their needs with weekly or flexi options. Normally, pupils commit to certain days, however it is sometimes possible to accommodate ad hoc requests, depending on numbers. Some of our boarders come from far afield but some of our older pupils live locally yet choose to board as they find it easier to revise and prepare for exams within the structure and routine of the boarding house, where they know they can ask for support when the need arises.

A Typical Evening

After school the boarders meet for the daily roll call and house meeting and then change into home clothes ready for enrichment activities such as music, sport and art. Tea is served in the dining hall and, following this, we have formal prep where boarders complete their homework and do independent study. During this time, our younger pupils have the opportunity to do their prep in house, with the support of house staff, before joining in with shared reading. Once Prep has finished, all boarders have free time until heading back to their boarding house before bedtime.

Weekends

The weekend activities programme is full and varied, meaning that there is rarely a moment where boarders can feel lonely or bored. Saturdays comprise of sports fixtures, onsite activities such as sport (gym, fitness, basketball/badminton), art, music and cookery, and there is the option for older pupils to catch the public service bus into Barnstaple for independent shopping. On Sundays we have planned excursions to local activities or sites of interest, such as surfing, climbing, go-karting, cinema, bowling, ice-skating, Eden Project, Exeter, Tintagel, wake park etc.

Our Food

Our school meals are healthy, fresh and delicious. Our in-house catering team use local suppliers and fresh ingredients wherever possible to provide our pupils with nutritious, exciting options. Boarders also have access to the house kitchen where they can prepare snacks and even whole meals (with prior permission).

Reviewed and amended Feb 2026 by the Head of Boarding and Senior Deputy Head

Next review due before July 2027.