



Lichfield Cathedral School

STATEMENT OF BOARDING PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

Introduction

The School was re-founded in 1942 (as St Chad's Cathedral School) principally as a boarding school for the choristers of Lichfield Cathedral. However, non-chorister pupils have been admitted from the beginning.

Until 1981 the School was owned and governed by the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral. However, since that date it has been a fully independent, coeducational preparatory school, known as Lichfield Cathedral School, until the decision was taken to move into secondary education in 2005. The school opens a new Sixth Form in September 2010.

Boys and girls are admitted at any time from the age of 3, choosing either to move on to other Schools at age 11 or 13, or remain at the Cathedral School for their secondary education. There are presently 423 children in the School aged 3 – 16.

School Mission Statement

Lichfield Cathedral School is committed to creating and maintaining an educational environment which nurtures, nourishes and stimulates young minds and talents; where children may gain a thorough academic foundation; and where daily life is conducted according to Christian values and the experience of Christian worship. The School is determined to provide a secure and ordered framework within which children and young people may grow in self-esteem and confidence, discover the riches of successful participation and achievement, and develop a spirit of generosity and service to the wider community.

Boarding at Lichfield

Lichfield Cathedral School currently provides a maximum of 24 boarding places for boys aged 8 – 15 accommodated within the Grade 1 listed building known as The Palace in the Cathedral Close. The School aims to provide the highest quality of boarding care within a happy and supportive environment. The highly committed staff encourage the boys to develop a good work ethic, self-discipline in all aspects of daily life, high standards of presentation and good manners, confidence in communicating with others, and independence of mind, so that they can enjoy rewarding and fulfilling lives while at school and grow into mature young adults.

This statement about boarding at Lichfield Cathedral School should be read in conjunction with the school's full list of policies, handbooks, prospectuses and welcome packs, all of which are available for parents and staff in a simple folder system on the school website and on request from the School Office.

In particular, reference should be made to the Mission, Aims and Objectives of the School, the Boarding Handbook, the Chorister Handbook, the Staff Handbook, the School Development Plan, the Terms and Conditions for Parents, and the Prospective Chorister Handbook (in conjunction with the School's Admissions Policy).

Boarding Provision

Boarding places are made available this year to boys aged 8 - 15; the school does not have sufficient space or facilities at present to accommodate girls. For the last few years the great majority of the boarders have been choristers in the Cathedral Choir, but a small number of beds are made available for other full or weekly boarders who have a particular need for a small, family-style boarding environment.

Choristers are full boarders at the School, though probationers may choose to be day pupils or weekly boarders until they are installed as full choristers. (See below for further details about choristers.)



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Boarding House

The boarders are accommodated in the Palace on the first and second floors. They sleep in dormitories, together with others of a similar age. They have a sitting room on the first floor, with TV, DVD and Video facilities. A Games room on the same floor has a wide variety of electronic games, board games and other activities. The Boarders also have use of the computers in the Senior Library. The Great Hall is used for sports and games. The Boarders eat breakfast and tea in the main Dining Room on the Ground Floor, joining the Day pupils for lunch, and enjoy many additional facilities and resources both within the building and outside in the spacious grounds. As the choristers have a very busy, yet highly rewarding, lifestyle, it is the School's aim to create a boarding environment which is homely and relaxing, but also to provide activities, outings and opportunities which are stimulating and enriching.

Staff

The Headmaster, Peter Allwood, and his wife, Ros, take an active and close interest in the welfare of the boarders, occasionally deputising for the boarding staff. The boarders' organisation and immediate concerns are the responsibility of the Housemother, who is also resident within the Palace next door to the dormitories. There are two Boarding Tutors who are present in the evening to assist with the supervision of prep and evening activities, and two additional members of the team who assist overnight. A part time Nurse and two part time matrons assist with the day to day health and welfare requirements of the Boarders. A retired member of the school teaching staff deputises for the Housemother on one night per week.

Academic matters

All boarders attend lessons with the day pupils, and follow the same timetable and curriculum. (Further details may be found in the prospectus and in other documentation.) The choristers occasionally have other special musical activities which will take them out of class, but it is the aim of Cathedral and School that these are carefully monitored to ensure that they do not distract too much from the importance of the boys' studies.

Similarly, all boarders take part in Games alongside the day pupils, and have access to clubs and societies within the School.

Special provision is made for Choristers in this respect due to their duties in the Cathedral. Activities and clubs are arranged for them on their "dumb" day (normally Wednesday), and throughout the special choir weeks at Christmas and Easter.

Parents' visits

Boarders are allowed out at any time over the weekend with their parents or family/friends as long as these times do not clash with the choristers' duties in the Cathedral. Special permission has to be sought from the Housemother for leave with family or friends other than parents.

Choristers

The choristers have leave-outs between rehearsals and services throughout the weekend, and they can choose to stay at School or go out (or home) with parents, relatives or friends. Furthermore, parents frequently attend Choral Evensong in the Cathedral on weekdays, and may return afterwards to the Palace to see their sons briefly before the boys' tea and prep. In this way, parents can take a reasonably close and active interest in their son's life while he remains a boarder at the school. Those parents who live further away often nominate a relative or friend to fulfil a similar role, whether regularly or occasionally; and the school continues to care for all boys who choose to remain at school whilst others are on leave out.



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Choristers begin as probationers, perhaps for one year, during which time they learn the repertoire, develop their voices and musicianship, and gain an understanding of the self-discipline required to fulfil the role of chorister. They participate in all weekday morning rehearsals and attend Choral Evensong on weekdays, participating occasionally as the year progresses.

Installation as a full chorister comes about as a result of an invitation by the Organist and Master of the Choristers whenever he is sure that the boy is ready. The schedule (beyond the normally school timetable which is detailed separately) involves a regular weekday morning rehearsal for one hour from 07.55; a rehearsal after school from 16.40 prior to Choral Evensong at 17.30; a "Dumb Day" usually Wednesday to give voices a rest; a rehearsal on Saturday morning from 08.45 to 10.15 followed by a leave-out and return for Choral Evensong; and two services, with appropriate rehearsals, on Sundays. The choir also sings for a "Christmas Week" culminating in a highly popular Carol Service on Boxing Day, and for Holy Week finishing on Easter Day. During these weeks, the boys board at School, and have an exciting programme of activities and "Mystery Tours". A chorister can expect to go on a number of choir tours during his time in the choir.

Choristers' Handbooks

A chorister parent produces a Handbook every year for choristers and their parents which is distributed on the last night of the Summer Term. This gives a great deal more information than can be contained here about the various people, traditions and places that the choristers will experience, with particularly helpful guidance to the parents of new choristers. *This document is only made available to current choristers and their parents, and members of staff, because it contains some personal information about each chorister.*

In addition, there is a Handbook for Parents of Prospective Choristers giving full details of the life of a chorister. This is also to be found on the school website: www.lichfieldcathedralschool.com.

Full information about the ethos of the School and the way in which the school operates will be found on the school website, www.lichfieldcathedralschool.com, and in the Parents' Handbook. In addition, parents sign an Agreement at the time of registration of a boarding pupil at the School, and this includes reference to the School's full Terms and Conditions.

Hard copies of all Handbooks and Terms and Conditions are available on request from the School Office, 01543 306170.

Peter Allwood

Headmaster