



Statement of Boarding Principles & Practice Summary Statement

Applies to:	Fidelis College, including EYFS, Prep, Senior School and Sixth Form, for students aged 4–19
Approved by:	Board of Trustees
Policy owner:	Head of College
Operational lead:	Fidelis International Co-ordinator
Date approved:	24 August 2026
Review cycle:	Annual
Next review:	August 2027

Fidelis College is committed to ensuring that all pupils studying away from home are safe, well cared for, and able to flourish. While accommodation arrangements remain the responsibility of parents, the College applies robust safeguarding principles and oversight consistent with the spirit of the National Minimum Standards.

In developing this statement, Fidelis College has had due regard to the following legislation and guidance:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2026)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2026)
- Children Act 1989 as amended by the Care Standards Act 2000 and the Education Act 2011
- National Minimum Standards for boarding schools (2022)
- Replacement Children Act 1989 Guidance on Private Fostering (2005)

Introduction

Fidelis College is an independent day school in London which offers an International Programme for students from outside the United Kingdom who wish to study at the College for a defined period.

The College is not a boarding school and does not directly provide boarding accommodation. Responsibility for arranging suitable accommodation rests with parents. However, in recognition of its duty of care and commitment to safeguarding, the College supports families by facilitating contact with potential host families and applying appropriate welfare oversight.

In doing so, the College seeks to align its practice, where appropriate, with the principles set out in the *National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools*, particularly **Standard 23 (Lodgings and Host Families)**.

The College is a member of the Association for the Education and Guardianship of International Students (AEGIS).

Core principles

The College's approach to pupils living away from their parents is guided by the following principles:

- **Safeguarding first:** The safety, welfare and wellbeing of every pupil is paramount.
- **Parental responsibility:** Parents retain full responsibility for accommodation arrangements and decisions.
- **Transparency:** All homestay arrangements are private agreements between families and are clearly understood as such.
- **Proportionate oversight:** The College undertakes reasonable checks and monitoring consistent with good practice and safeguarding expectations.
- **Cultural integration and care:** Pupils should be supported to thrive academically, socially, and culturally while studying in the UK.

Nature of homestay arrangements

Accommodation arrangements for international pupils may include:

- Living with relatives or family friends
- Educational guardianship arrangements
- Private host family (homestay) arrangements

Where parents request support, the College may:

- Provide contact details of families who have previously hosted pupils
- Facilitate introductions between families

All such arrangements are private and contractual between parents and host families. The College is not a party to these agreements and does not act as an accommodation provider.

Safeguarding and welfare oversight

Although not a boarding provider, Fidelis College applies elements of Standard 23 of the National Minimum Standards to promote pupil welfare. This includes:

Assessment of Host Families

Where a homestay is notified to the College, it will:

- Visit the accommodation prior to placement
- Interview the responsible adult(s) in the household
- Obtain references and enhanced Disclosure and Barring Checks
- Will provide annual training for host families using the College's safeguarding procedures
- Provide Safeguarding contact details to the biological families
- Obtain overseas police checks where applicable
- Consider the suitability of the home environment
- Record a written assessment of the arrangement
- Notify the local authority of a private fostering arrangement where applicable
- Keep a register of private fostering arrangements and checks undertaken by the College

Ongoing monitoring

The College will:

- Maintain appropriate contact with pupils
- Provide pastoral support through designated staff
- Respond to any welfare or safeguarding concerns
- Meet with students at least termly to review arrangements and keep a record of these meetings

Safeguarding compliance

All arrangements are considered in the context of:

- The College's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Relevant guidance such as Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Private fostering requirements where applicable

Roles and responsibilities

Parents

- Arrange and contract accommodation
- Ensure suitability of host arrangements
- Maintain oversight of their child's welfare

Host Families

- Provide a safe, supportive, and caring home environment
- Act in loco parentis for day-to-day care
- Communicate with parents and the College as appropriate
- Liaise with the local authority to comply with private fostering requirements

Fidelis College

- Facilitates introductions where requested
- Undertake proportionate safeguarding checks
- Provide pastoral and academic oversight
- Acts promptly on any concerns
- Provides ongoing child protection and safeguarding guidance to host families

Pastoral Care and Integration

All international pupils benefit from:

- Access to the College's pastoral system
- A designated member of staff for welfare support
- Support with integration into school life
- Monitoring of attendance, wellbeing, and academic progress

Complaints and Concerns

Any concerns relating to a pupil's welfare in a host family arrangement should be raised immediately with the College's safeguarding team.

The College will:

- Take all concerns seriously
- Investigate in line with safeguarding procedures
- Liaise with parents and, where necessary, external agencies