



PRETORIA BOYS HIGH SCHOOL

BOARDING CODE OF CONDUCT

The following expectations have been drawn up to ensure mutual respect and appreciation amongst our boys in boarding to ensure the dignity and worth of all individuals in the boarding houses.

Expectations of Boarders at Boys High

1. All pupils are to abide by the boarding house rules at all times. These rules are updated annually and given to every family at the start of the year.
2. Senior pupils play an important role in looking after the welfare of boys in junior forms: nothing that senior pupils do must ever compromise that role.
3. While there is a hierarchy in boarding, respect is earned and is not automatically given. A culture of entitlement, no matter what Form the boy is in, is strongly discouraged.
4. A policy of transparency and open communication is encouraged to ensure that any parent or pupil may speak openly or in confidence about any matter pertaining to the well-being of the boys in boarding. There are well-defined structures of reporting available to the boys and their parents to address concerns of any nature.
5. No pupil is to be guilty of or party to any action that specifically:
 - involves any form of physical, verbal, sexual, emotional, discriminatory or cyber bullying (or the threat thereof)
 - demeans or belittles another pupil
 - involves any form of punishment (for boarding house misdemeanors) that has not been sanctioned by a housemaster
 - punishes another boy for apparent misdemeanors or for non-compliance unless he is a prefect and acting within his authority
 - involves striking another boy with or without an object (caning or “jacking” is expressly forbidden in all forms)
 - deprives another pupil of any item(s) of property, including food (i.e. any action that can be regarded as theft such as taking tuck from another boy)
 - intentionally tries to force a boy to leave boarding
 - causes any form of sleep deprivation after lights out
 - causes physical discomfort or emotional distress
 - forces a pupil to break boarding house rules or school rules
 - tries to enforce a “code of silence”, particularly among junior pupils
 - torments any individual or group

- involves any form of disruption of another's boarding space (raiding, disrupting lockers and/or bedding etc)
 - involves borrowing any item from any other boarder, particularly clothing and/or money, unless permission has been expressly granted by the boy you are borrowing from. Under no circumstances will borrowing of any kind be allowed from a boy who is in a lower Form.
6. Using practices, "traditions" or events from any previous year(s) as a justification for present actions will not **ever** be regarded as a valid reason or excuse.
 7. No boy may voluntarily or otherwise give up his rights as outlined in this document. Granting another boy "permission" to act against this Code is not permitted.
 8. The relationship between Form V pupils and their Form I pupils is meant to be a positive, two-way mentoring relationship. The Form I pupil should derive far more benefit from the relationship than the Form V pupil.
 9. The school will determine rules regarding minimum times for sleep, study, times for general cleanliness and times for meals. Under no circumstances is a pupil to deprive or attempt to deprive another pupil, either intentionally or not, of sleep, food, good hygiene or the basic human right of personal dignity.
 10. Boys are only permitted to be in the common areas, such as the foyer and Honours Hall or their own specific dormitory, prep cube or sleeping space. No boys from senior Forms may be in the junior dorms and vice versa (with the obvious exception of the Prefects). The Form V rooms are out of bounds to all boys except Form Vs.
 11. Physical exercise is part of boarding in order to promote a healthy, balanced lifestyle. Afternoon house runs are part of this lifestyle and are closely monitored by the masters to ensure boys do not over-train. A maximum of one early morning exercise session per week is permitted provided a master is personally overseeing the activity and the exercise is done in accordance with prescribed activities as set out by the Strength and Conditioning Coach. Boys may not get out of bed before 05:30 to take part in these morning sessions.
 12. The responsibility of running each boarding house at PBHS lies with the Senior Housemaster and his masters. They are the ONLY ones who may sanction punishment of any kind which must be in line with established practices. Prefects are there to assist the masters with the running of the house. No other pupil may punish or attempt to punish another pupil in any way, manner or form.
 13. While the school acknowledges the age-old "honour" system of not "busting/splitting" on one another, it is required of boys to own up to their own misdemeanors when confronted by a figure in authority. Boys are also expected to speak up against bullying, abuse, substance abuse, theft and other acts of serious misconduct that harm either the perpetrator or others.
 14. The school will take any action that harms another, whether physically, mentally or emotionally, very seriously indeed. Any boy who is found to have assaulted another boy, particularly one in a lower Form, will, most likely, have to leave the boarding house and may also face a disciplinary hearing of the SGB

15. The school will deal with any incident of theft very seriously. Any boy who is found to have stolen in any manner or form no matter how big or small, will, most likely, have to leave the boarding house and may also face a disciplinary hearing of the SGB
16. Any boy who is a bystander to an event of a serious nature such as bullying, theft and/or assault or abuse and who does nothing to stop what is happening and/or report the matter to a master, will be deemed to be as guilty as those who perform such acts.
17. Any boy who intentionally misleads authority figures by making up stories that are not true and who deliberately lies, shall be guilty of bringing the good name of the school and boarding house into disrepute and shall be disciplined accordingly.
18. Presenting false information to authority figures and lying when confronted is considered to be serious misconduct
19. Boys must feel free to discuss anything that happens in boarding with their parents, a teacher or the school psychologists. The boarding houses should never have anything to hide or anything of which to be ashamed. A "code of silence" culture in the boarding house should not exist. If there are incidents taking place in the boarding house which you feel you cannot talk to your parents, a teacher or the school psychologist about or which you have been told not to talk about these incidents may well be wrong and need to be addressed.
20. No boy may leave the property without permission from the master on duty or his Head of House. Any boy who "bunks out" is guilty of serious misconduct and may well have to leave the boarding house.
21. All boarders, parents and guardians acknowledge that:
 - They will communicate, using the official channels of communication, if there are any concerns that need addressing.
 - They understand these expectations and regard them as binding
 - They carry a responsibility to uphold the values of PBHS as well as meaningful and relevant traditions
 - The school is required to deal swiftly and seriously with those who do not live up to these expectations, particularly when it comes to any form of bullying.

Boys boarding is, by its very nature a robust environment wherein a wonderful opportunity exists for boys to develop independence, experience camaraderie and grow as individuals who make a positive difference in the lives of others. It is our intention to ensure that the boarding houses are a safe, happy place where our boys develop into young men of whom we can be most proud.

GJ HASSENKAMP
HEADMASTER

C MCBRIDE
DEPUTY HEADMASTER

DECLARATION BY PARENT(S), GUARDIANS AND BOYS

PARENT/GUARDIAN

I/We,

.....

parent(s)/guardian(s) of in Form

hereby acknowledge that I/we have read and understand the Boarding Code of Conduct.

Signed:

Date:

PUPIL

I
(pupil's name)

have read and understand the Boarding Code of Conduct and agree to abide by the conditions outlined therein of my being a boarder at PBHS.

Signed:

Date: