Policy 12.6

ACCOMMODATION AND WELFARE POLICY INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that international students under 18 years of age are provided with safe, appropriate accommodation and comprehensive welfare support throughout their enrolment at Walford Anglican School for Girls. This policy outlines the School's responsibilities in relation to accommodation, welfare, supervision, and compliance with the Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) Act 2000, the National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018, student visa requirements, and relevant South Australian child protection legislation.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- International students under 18 years of age enrolled at Walford Anglican School for Girls.
- Parents, legal guardians, approved relatives and host families.
- Boarding House staff.
- Wellbeing staff.
- School leadership.
- External accommodation providers approved by the School.

3. Approved Accommodation Arrangements

Walford Anglican School for Girls approves the following accommodation and welfare arrangements for international students.

Option 1 – Walford Anglican School for Girls Boarding House (School Accepts Welfare Responsibility)

The student will reside in the Walford Anglican School for Girls Boarding House or another accommodation approved by the School.

Where the School accepts responsibility for the student's welfare, the School will issue a **Confirmation of Appropriate Accommodation and Welfare (CAAW)** through PRISMS to accompany the student's Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE).

When the School issues a CAAW:

- the School accepts responsibility for the student's accommodation, welfare and support until responsibility formally ends in accordance with ESOS requirements;
- all accommodation, welfare and support arrangements, including those provided by third parties, must be approved by the School;
- students must not change accommodation or welfare arrangements without prior written approval from the School;
- any change to welfare arrangements must also comply with Department of Home Affairs requirements, including submission of Form 157N where applicable;
- if a student refuses to maintain approved welfare arrangements, the School will counsel the student and parents, assess any welfare risks, and where required report the matter through PRISMS in accordance with the ESOS Act and advise the student to contact the Department of Home Affairs regarding possible visa implications.

School-approved accommodation options include:

- Walford Anglican School for Girls Boarding House
- Homestay arranged through the Australian Homestay Network (AHN) or another School-approved provider

4. Option 2 – Parent or Approved Relative

Students may reside with:

- a parent;
- a legal custodian; or
- a nominated relative approved under Department of Home Affairs requirements.

In these circumstances:

- the School does not issue a CAAW;
- responsibility for accommodation and welfare remains with the parent or approved guardian;
- the family must provide all documentation required by the Department of Home Affairs.

The nominated relative must:

- normally be at least 21 years of age;
- be of good character;
- be an Australian citizen, permanent resident, or hold an appropriate visa permitting residence in Australia for the required period.

Where required, families must submit:

- Form 157N – Student Guardianship Arrangements;
- evidence of the relationship;
- evidence of the guardian's character;
- evidence of Australian residency or citizenship status;
- Form 1229 – Consent to grant an Australian visa to a child under 18 years (where applicable).

Where a guardian holds a Student Guardian Visa, all visa conditions must be met, including notifying the Department of Home Affairs of changes to address or personal circumstances and ensuring approved welfare arrangements remain in place.

5. Boarding Accommodation

Students living in the Walford Anglican School for Girls Boarding House will be provided with:

- safe, secure and well-maintained accommodation;
- a furnished bedroom;
- nutritious daily meals, including consideration of medical, religious and cultural dietary requirements;
- laundry, bathroom, internet and recreational facilities;
- supervised study facilities;
- access to health and wellbeing services;
- 24-hour supervision while residing on campus.

6. Welfare and Pastoral Care

Walford Anglican School for Girls is committed to providing a supportive boarding environment that promotes each student's academic, personal, emotional and social development.

Support services include:

- Head of Boarding House and residential staff;
- academic monitoring;
- homework support;
- counselling services;
- school nurse and wellbeing staff;
- orientation and transition programs;
- English language support where required;
- cultural adjustment assistance;
- mental health and wellbeing programs;
- regular communication with parents and guardians.

7. Supervision

Boarding students are supervised through:

- residential staff on duty before and after school;
- overnight supervision;
- daily attendance monitoring;
- sign-in and sign-out procedures;
- weekend and evening supervision;
- risk-assessed leave arrangements;
- emergency after-hours support.

8. Student Responsibilities

International boarding students are expected to:

- comply with Boarding House rules;
- maintain satisfactory attendance and academic progress;
- respect staff, fellow students and boarding facilities;
- observe curfews and leave procedures;
- maintain appropriate standards of behaviour;
- immediately report health, safety or wellbeing concerns;
- comply with Australian laws and student visa conditions.

9. Parent and Guardian Responsibilities

Parents or guardians are responsible for:

- providing accurate emergency and medical information;
- maintaining current contact details;
- supporting compliance with School and boarding expectations;
- notifying the School of significant changes affecting the student's welfare;
- maintaining regular communication with the School.

10. School Holiday Arrangements

For students for whom the School has issued a CAAW, approved holiday accommodation options include:

- returning home to parents;
- residing in School-approved homestay accommodation arranged through AHN;
- staying with an approved school family following written approval from the School;
- participating in a School-approved supervised excursion, camp or educational program.

Any alternative accommodation arrangement must be assessed as suitable, comply with ESOS requirements, and receive prior written approval from the School before the student leaves the Boarding House.

11. Health, Safety and Child Protection

Walford Anglican School for Girls will:

- maintain a child-safe environment;
- comply with South Australian child protection legislation;
- ensure boarding staff hold required child-related screening clearances;
- provide first aid and facilitate access to medical care;
- maintain emergency and critical incident procedures;
- respond promptly to concerns regarding abuse, neglect, bullying or harassment.

12. Complaints and Appeals

International students have the right to raise concerns regarding:

- accommodation;
- boarding supervision;
- welfare services;
- discrimination;
- bullying;
- academic support;
- staff conduct.

Complaints will be managed confidentially, fairly and promptly in accordance with the School's Complaints and Appeals Policy.

REFERENCES

Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000
National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018
Enrolments Policy 4.17
Handling complaints Policy 4.8
Complaints and Appeals International Students 12.12
Child Safe Environment Policy 3.2

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