



Statement of need: Alterations to Boarding Houses

As a boarding school, Concord College is required to comply with standards as defined by the Department for Education. These standards are set out in the 'National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools'.

This statement of national minimum standards for boarding schools is published by the Secretary of State for Education under section 87C(1) of the Children Act 1989 as amended by the Care Standards Act 2000 and the Education Act 2011.

These standards contain arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children for whom accommodation is provided by boarding schools, such as Concord College. They provide the minimum standards below which no school is expected to fall.

Concord College will be inspected against the standards to determine if there is satisfactory compliance with the legal obligation to safeguard and promote the welfare of boarders.

The most recent version of the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools' came into force from 5 September 2022. This most recent version included the new requirements:

20.7 Schools should ensure that they have a suitable number of staff (and at least one) sleeping or on duty in each building, who is responsible for the boarders and available to meet boarders' needs during the night.

20.8 Boarders are able to contact a member of staff easily in each building at night and know how to do this.

Our interpretation of this is that staff accommodation should be in the same building as the boarding accommodation for pupils. Where this is not the case we have proposed measures to attach the buildings through the use of link corridors.

Concord College has 17 boarding houses, several of which are not purpose-built. In addition, some boarding houses were designed to allow physical separation from staff accommodation.

There is a business requirement to make the alterations to link the boarding houses with the staff accommodation. Without making these changes then the boarding accommodation does not comply with the standards set by the Department for Education and should not be used for boarding. Our business model is based on providing a fee-paying boarding school education and any reduction in the number of available beds will reduce our income, and will consequently require us to reduce expenditure.

Concord College is an important local employer with more than 300 staff. Any loss of income could impact the number of staff we employ.

We have considered the alternative to linking the buildings. If the buildings are not linked then it would require us to consider creating new staff flats in each boarding house building. The impact of this would be the loss of up to three bedrooms per building and additional costs for the number of staff required to supervise boarding houses. We do not consider this to be a financially viable approach to this issue. Each boarding bed that is lost results in a reduction of income of £53,400 per annum.

Matthew Hodge CPFA
Bursar & Clerk to the Trustees
17 March 2023

The DfE document 'National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools' is available at [Boarding schools: national minimum standards - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/108211/boarding-schools-national-minimum-standards-2022.pdf)