



sbsa

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sbsa

State Boarding Schools' Association

Parents' Guide to state boarding schools



Combining state education with pay-for boarding

Location of state boarding schools



Foreward



Hilary Moriarty,
Director,
State Boarding Schools' Association

Whatever your view of boarding schools – perhaps because of your own experience, perhaps because you're a fan of Mallory Towers or Hogwarts – the likelihood is that the reality in the twenty first century will be very different.

No pupil today will be having swimming lessons in a rock pool filled with sea water, as in Mallory Towers, or suffering the pain inflicted by a teacher such as Dolores Umbridge at Hogwarts. Today, modern state boarding schools offer an outstanding education, a comfortable environment with excellent facilities and a wide range of extracurricular activities. They are regularly inspected by Ofsted against the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools and the Every Child Matters agenda and the inspection reports are easily accessed on the Ofsted website.

There are more than 30 state schools which have boarding accommodation. They have received substantial government investment in recent years and the government is also supporting three academies which intend to start boarding in 2010. More than 4,000 pupils already board at state boarding schools and some of the schools have as many as 5 applications for every sixth form place.

Every boarding school is a community, with committed and well trained pastoral staff and expert teachers who help children settle into the school family quickly and happily. Boarding gives children confidence and self-reliance, vital elements of success in today's world. It also gives them friends for life.

You will get a warm welcome when you visit the schools which interest you. I hope you will take your child to see for themselves what the schools have to offer. And I very much hope that reading this guide will be just the first step on your child's journey to a great school.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hilary Moriarty".

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Why choose an **sbsa** school?

There are many reasons for choosing a state boarding school for your child. Here are just a few:

Excellent education

All state boarding schools follow the National Curriculum and pupils take the same exams as they would in a state day school. Whilst the exams are the same, the performance exceeds that of many other schools with state boarding schools frequently featuring at the top of league tables. This applies to both selective and non-selective schools. Some state boarding schools offer the International Baccalaureate in the sixth form.

Top quality boarding facilities

The boarding facilities are indistinguishable from those at independent schools. Following major government investment in recent years many schools have new boarding houses with state-of-the-art facilities and all are supported by staff that are totally committed to the well-being of the children. By selecting a state boarding school parents are choosing the very best in boarding care.

Affordable boarding education

When you can get top quality education combined with state-of-the-art boarding facilities it is easy to see why so many parents choose state boarding education for their children. Fees are generally less than half those of independent schools and yet state boarding schools compare very favourably when it comes to standards of care, education and facilities.

Wide choice of schools

Parents will usually find a school that meets their requirements - however specific they are. There are selective schools and comprehensive schools; co-ed and single-sex schools; primary schools, secondary schools and sixth form colleges; specialists in many different subjects; predominantly boarding or minority boarding. The schools are spread throughout England and there is one in Wales.



It's like one big sleepover for the children with their extended family, and their learning is fun.



Parent



Benefits of Boarding

Modern boarding is a flexible option with many state boarding schools offering weekly as well as termly boarding. Boarding has many benefits:

- Plenty of home comforts and a warm welcome
- They help children to develop confidence and independence
- Boarders have the best of both worlds – a ready-made circle of friends in their boarding house and the chance to mix with local children
- They provide continuity and stability, for example for children whose parents' work involves frequent changes of location or where parents work long hours
- They offer a range of worthwhile evening and weekend activities

By visiting some schools with your child you will be able to choose the most suitable one. All schools have arrangements for helping new boarders to settle in and the great majority of boarders get used to their new surroundings very quickly. However, if any do experience problems, help is always at hand.

Boarding in the sixth form is a popular option for many pupils as it is an excellent preparation for university life or employment away from home. Many state boarding schools have sixth forms and there is also the option of a further education college.

Who can be a boarder at a state boarding school?

Maintained boarding schools welcome children from all backgrounds. They can admit UK and other European Union nationals. Children from outside the EU need to have the right of residence in the UK before they can be accepted as a boarder.

Please note that the holding of a BN(O) passport does not make the child eligible for a State Boarding School in the UK.



School is fun....I've made
so many friends since I
came to this school.

Pupil



Directory of Schools - South East

Colchester Royal Grammar School

Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3ND

School type: Grammar School

Age range: 11-18

Gender: Boys 11-16. Girls and boys in sixth form

Notes:

- Judged "outstanding" in very category by Ofsted
- Top school in the country for A-levels (DCSF 2007 and 2008)
- A Science and Languages Specialist School

www.crgs.co.uk

Tel: 01206 509100

Number of pupils: 792

Boarding places: 30 (sixth form boys only)

Sixth form: 300



Cranbrook School

Cranbrook, Kent, TN17 3JD

School type: Grammar School

Age range: 13-18

Gender: Boys and girls

Notes:

- Strong sporting tradition
- Science and training school
- Excellent facilities for drama and music

www.cranbrookschool.co.uk

Tel: 01580 711800

Number of pupils: 750

Boarding places: 250

Sixth form: 300 plus



Gordon's School

West End, Woking, Surrey, GU24 9PT

School type: Voluntary Aided School

Age range: 11-18

Gender: Boys and girls

Notes:

- In the HM Chief Inspector of Schools "outstanding school list"
- In the top 20 state schools in Britain for the last four years
- Non-selective yet 90% of pupils gain 5+GCSE passes at A*-C

www.gordons.surrey.sch.uk

Tel: 01276 858084

Number of pupils: 646

Boarding places: 200

Sixth form: 150



Hockerill Anglo-European College

Dunmow Road, Bishop's Stortford, Herts, CM23 5HX

School type: Comprehensive School

Age range: 11-19

Gender: Boys and girls

Notes:

- The country's top performing state school post 16 (2006, 2007, 2008, The Independent)
- International Baccalaureate Diploma and IB Middle Years Programme
- Specialist Music College, Language College, Training School and Leading Edge School

www.hockerill.herts.sch.uk

Tel: 01279 658451

Number of pupils: 760

Boarding places: 240

Sixth form: 180



Reading School

Erleigh Road, Reading, RG1 5LW

School type: Grammar School

Age range: 11-18

Gender: Boys

Notes:

- Ofsted – "outstanding". Excellent results at both GCSE and A level
- Broad and academically demanding curriculum with specialist humanities status
- Weekly boarding in two on-site boarding houses

www.readingschool.reading.sch.uk

Tel: 0118 901 5600

Number of pupils: 880

Boarding places: 70

Sixth form: 285



The teachers are nice and the school provides a peaceful, calm environment.

Pupil



Royal Alexandra and Albert School

Gatton Park, Reigate, Surrey, RH2 0TD

School type: Voluntary Aided School

Age range: 7-18

Gender: Boys and girls

Notes:

- One of the few boarding schools to offer junior, as well as senior boarding
- An "Outstanding School" (Ofsted 2008), set in 260 acres of parkland
- Facilities include riding stables, swimming pool, all weather pitches

www.raa-school.co.uk

Tel: 01737 649000

Number of pupils: 780

Boarding places: 420

Sixth form: 50

**Sir Roger Manwood's School**

Sandwich, Kent, CT13 9JX

School type: Grammar School

Age range: 11-18

Gender: Boys and girls

Notes:

- High Performing Specialist Language College with Maths and Computing as second specialism
- Almost all pupils proceed to major universities including Oxbridge
- Excellent family-style boarding

www.srms.kent.sch.uk

Tel: 01304 613286

Number of pupils: 900

Boarding places: 52

Sixth form: 260

**St George's VA School**

Sun Lane, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, AL5 4TD

School type: Comprehensive School

Age range: 11-18

Gender: Boys and girls

Notes:

- Excellent academic record – one of the country's top 10% for exam results
- Technology, ICT, maths, science and language specialist status
- Highly sought-after sixth form boarding places

www.stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

Tel: 01582 765477

Number of pupils: 1240

Boarding places: 120

Sixth form: 330

**Steyping Grammar School**

Shooting Field, Steyping, West Sussex, BN44 3RX

School type: Community Technology College

Age range: 11-18

Gender: Boys and girls

Notes:

- The School specialises in Science, Maths, Technology and Applied Learning
- An "outstanding boarding school" (Ofsted 2009) with the International Baccalaureate from Sept 09
- High performing specialist college at GCSE and A Level

www.steyning.w-sussex.sch.uk

Tel: 01903 814786

Number of pupils: 2081

Boarding places: 71

Sixth form: 460

**The Duke of York's Royal Military School**

Guston, Dover, Kent, CT15 5EQ

School type: MoD School

Age range: 11-18

Gender: Boys and girls

Notes:

- Solely for children whose parents serve in the British Armed Forces
- Fees subsidised by the MoD

www.doymrs.mod.uk

Tel: 01304 245024

Number of pupils: 500

Boarding places: 500

Sixth form: 105

**The Royal Grammar School**

Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP13 6QT

School type: Grammar School

Age range: 11-18

Gender: Boys

Notes:

- New purpose-built boarding house with extensive modern facilities
- Recent Ofsted report indicated that the school was "Outstanding"
- High academic standards and traditional manners and courtesy expected

www.rgshw.com

Tel: 01494 524955

Number of pupils: 1350

Boarding places: 70

Sixth form: 400

**Wymondham College**

Golf Links Road, Wymondham, Norfolk, NR18 9SZ

School type: Comprehensive Technology College

Age range: 11-18

Gender: Boys and girls

Notes:

- Outstanding academic achievement at GCSE and A Level
- Local and national sporting success – rugby, cricket, hockey and tennis
- New, university-style sixth form centre

www.wymondhamcollege.co.uk

Tel: 01953 609000

Number of pupils: 1009

Boarding places: 530

Sixth form: 400



Directory of Schools - Wales

St Brigid's School

Plas-yn-Green, Denbigh, North Wales, LL16 4BH

School type: Grammar School

Age range: 3-18

Gender: Girls

Notes:

- Education rooted in the Catholic tradition, with a deep commitment to Christian faith
- Tradition of music, dance and drama
- Emphasis on varied extracurricular activities, including CCF and after-school clubs

www.stbrigids.co.uk

Tel: 01745 815228

Number of pupils: 499

Boarding places: 30

Sixth form: 60



Directory of Schools - South West

Brymore School

Cannington, Somerset, TA5 2NB

School type: Technical School

Age range: 13-17

Gender: Boys

Notes:

- Specialist technology school specialising in rural technologies
- 60 acre farm, walled garden, blacksmithing forges and workshops
- Excellent sporting record

www.brymoreschool.co.uk

Tel: 01278 652369

Number of pupils: 200

Boarding places: 150

Sixth form: 20



Burford School and Community College

Cheltenham Road, Burford, Oxon, OX18 4PL

School type: Specialist Technology College

Age range: 11-19

Gender: Boys and girls

Notes:

- High levels of student involvement in extra-curricular activities
- Excellent choice of courses
- Excellent boarding facilities

www.burford.oxon.sch.uk

Tel: 01993 823303

Number of pupils: 1166

Boarding places: 90

Sixth form: 230



King's School

Romsey Road, Winchester, Hampshire, SO22 5PN

School type: Community School

Age range: 11-16 (Day) 11-18 (Boarding)

Gender: Boys and girls

Notes:

- Excellent sporting facilities – astro-turf, floodlit tennis courts, swimming pool
- Ofsted report (Nov 2005) classified the School as "Outstanding"
- Outstanding academic results

www.kings-winchester.hants.sch.uk

Tel: 01962 861161

Number of pupils: 1820

Boarding places: 31 (boys only)

Sixth form: No



Peter Symonds' College

Owens Road, Winchester, SO22 6RX

School type: Sixth Form College

Age range: 16-19

Gender: Boys and girls

Notes:

- Wide range of academic courses and cultural, music and sporting activities
- Excellent academic results
- Strong learning support department

www.psc.ac.uk

Tel: 01962 857500

Number of pupils: 2800

Boarding places: 80

Sixth form: 2800



Directory of Schools - South West

Queen Elizabeth's Community College

Western Road, Crediton, Devon, EX17 3LU
 School type: Comprehensive Technology/Community College
 Age range: 11-18
 Gender: Boys and girls
 Notes:

- Flourishing sixth form
- High performing specialist school
- Humanities

www.queenelizabeths.devon.sch.uk

Tel: 01363 773401
 Number of pupils: 1598
 Boarding places: 50
 Sixth form: 266



Sexey's School

Cole Road, Bruton, Somerset, BA10 0DF
 School type: Comprehensive School
 Age range: 11-18
 Gender: Boys and girls
 Notes:

- Small class sizes – teacher pupil ratio 1:14
- Flexible system of full or weekly boarding
- Exceptional teaching and academic results

www.sexey.somerset.sch.uk

Tel: 01749 813393
 Number of pupils: 535
 Boarding places: 300
 Sixth form: 204



Shaftesbury School

Salisbury Road, Shaftesbury, SP7 8ER
 School type: Comprehensive School
 Age range: 11-18
 Gender: Boys and girls
 Notes:

- £3M new build program to be completed by September 2010
- Sports college status
- Specialised EFL/EAL programme for overseas students

www.shaftesburyschool.com

Tel: 01747 854498
 Number of pupils: 1000
 Boarding places: 80 (114 from Sept 2010)
 Sixth form: 40 (74 from Sept 2010)



The Five Islands School

Carn Thomas, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, TR21 0NJ
 School type: Voluntary Controlled School
 Age range: 4-16
 Gender: Boys and girls
 Notes:

- Federated school serving the five island communities of the Isles of Scilly only
- Small classes and high levels of academic support
- 82% students achieved 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE

www.fisonline.org.uk

Tel: 01720 422929
 Number of pupils: 265
 Boarding places: 25 (age 11-16)
 Sixth form: No



The Westgate School

Cheriton Road, Winchester, Hants, SO22 5AZ
 School type: Comprehensive School
 Age range: 11-16
 Gender: Boys and girls
 Notes:

- Specialist Science College status
- £2.5million sports hall together with major library extension
- Flourishing day nursery operates in the house (boarders can participate if they wish)

www.westgate.hants.sch.uk

Tel: 01962 854757
 Number of pupils: 1150
 Boarding places: 35 girls only
 Sixth form: No



The quality of the extra-curricular programme goes beyond excellence.

Ofsted



Directory of Schools - West Midlands

Adams' Grammar School

High Street, Newport, Shropshire, TF10 7BD
 School type: Grammar school
 Age range: 11-18
 Gender: Boys 11-16. Boys and girls in sixth form
 Notes:

- Haberdashers' Company School founded in 1656
- Technology College, Language College and Training School status
- Top performing school academically and judged "outstanding" by Ofsted

www.adamsgs.org.uk

Tel: 01952 386300
 Number of pupils: 800
 Boarding places: 100 (boys only)
 Sixth form: 270



Ashby School

Nottingham Road, Ashby-de-la-Zouche, Leicestershire, LE65 1DT
 School type: Technology/Language College
 Age range: 11-19
 Gender: Boys and girls
 Notes:

- Large and successful sixth form
- Small and comfortable house for boarders. Boarding judged as "outstanding" by Ofsted
- Specialist Information Technology status, Language status and International School status

www.ashbyschool.org.uk

Tel: 01530 413748
 Number of pupils: 1600
 Boarding places: 50 (boys only)
 Sixth form: 500



Burleigh Community College

Thorpe Hill, Loughborough, Leicester, LE11 4SG
 School type: Community School
 Age range: 13-19
 Gender: Boys and girls
 Notes:

- Sports College
- Community education
- Ethos of high academic standards and learning of skills to prepare people for life

www.burleigh.org.uk

Tel: 01509 554400
 Number of pupils: 1170
 Boarding places: 40
 Sixth form: 450



Old Swinford Hospital

Heath Lane, Stourbridge, DY8 1QX
 School type: Comprehensive School
 Age range: 11-18
 Gender: Boys 11-18, girls 16-18
 Notes:

- Ofsted awarded the school grade "1" in all 39 categories (October 2006)
- Excellent academic success
- Modern boarding houses including single rooms for sixth formers

www.oshsch.com

Tel: 01384 817300
 Number of pupils: 600
 Boarding places: 375 (boys only)
 Sixth form: 260



The Thomas Adams School

Lowe Hill, Wem, Shropshire, SY4 5UB
 School type: Comprehensive School
 Age range: 11-18
 Gender: Boys and girls
 Notes:

- Broad, balanced curriculum from 11-18
- 26 AS and A level subjects offered
- Attractive rural location with boarding in a supported family atmosphere

www.adamshouse.co.uk

Tel: 01939 233311
 Number of pupils: 1200
 Boarding places: 62
 Sixth form: 32



Directory of Schools - West Midlands

Welbeck – The Defence Sixth Form College

Forest Road, Woodhouse, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE12 8WD

School type: Sixth Form College

Age range: 16-18

Gender: Boys and girls

Notes:

- The MoD's college supplying the Armed Services and Civil Service with high quality engineering and science graduates
- Co-educational boarding houses with ensuite rooms
- Rural campus location

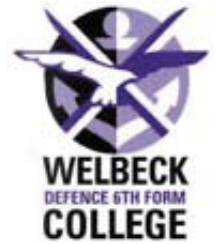
www.dsfc.ac.uk

Tel: 01509 891700

Number of pupils: 338

Boarding places: 338

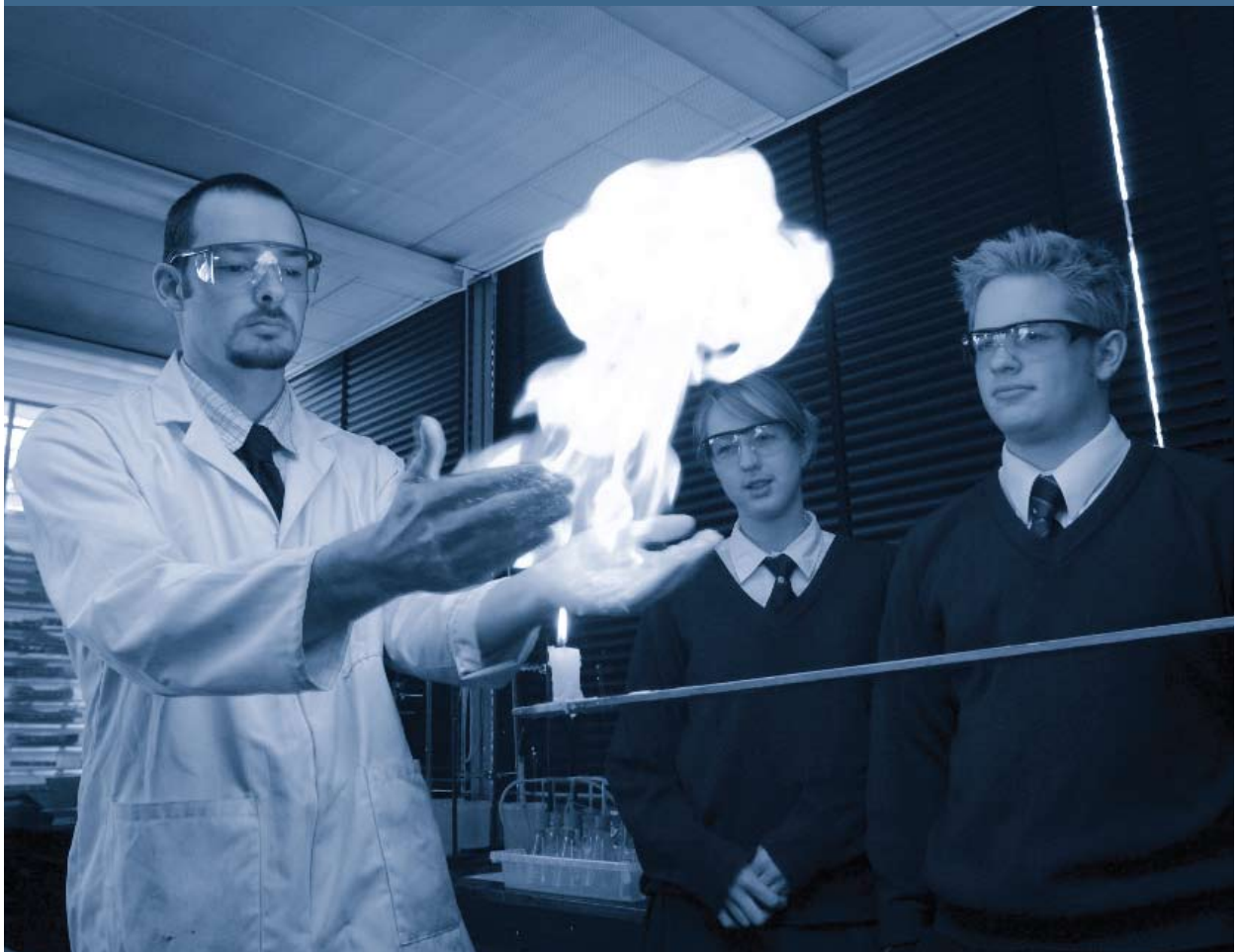
Sixth form: 338



There are many people here who are willing to listen and everyone helps each other so it feels just like a proper family.



Pupil



Directory of Schools - East Midlands

De Aston School

Willingham Road, Market Rasen, Lincolnshire, LN8 3RF
 School type: Specialist Maths and Computing School
 Age range: 11-18
 Gender: Boys and girls
 Notes:

- Outstanding sports, arts, music, drama and community based activities
- Outstanding care, guidance and support (Ofsted)
- Strong university links (including Oxbridge) and special needs provision (specific learning difficulties)

www.de-aston.lincs.sch.uk

Tel: 01673 843415
 Number of pupils: 1150
 Boarding places: 70
 Sixth form: 230-250



The Skegness Grammar School

Vernon Road, Skegness, Lincolnshire, PE25 2QS
 School type: Grammar School
 Age range: 11-18
 Gender: Boys and girls
 Notes:

- Outstanding academic standards and pastoral support
- Specialist status for Maths and Computing, Sport and Science
- Excellent extra curricular programme and facilities

www.skegnessgrammar.lincs.sch.uk

Tel: 01754 610000
 Number of pupils: 800
 Boarding places: 65
 Sixth form: 210



I often feel privileged that my daughter is a pupil at this school and has the opportunity to develop and achieve in so many different ways.

Parent



Directory of Schools - North

Dallam School

Haverflatts Lane, Milnthorpe, Cumbria, LA7 7DD

School type: Comprehensive School

Age range: 11-19

Gender: Boys and girls

Notes:

- IB World School. Outstanding achievement at GCSE, A level and Oxbridge
- Extensive programme of sports, clubs, performing arts and outdoor pursuits
- Specialist language college with an international ethos

www.dallam.eu

Tel: 01539 565165

Number of pupils: 1000

Boarding places: 120

Sixth form: 200



Haydon Bridge Community High School and Sports College

Haydon Bridge, Hexham, Northumberland, NE47 6LR

School type: Community School

Age range: 13-18

Gender: Boys and girls

Notes:

- Sports College with outdoor centre
- Recognised for international links through DCSF International Schools Award
- The school offers places to pupils Monday to Friday only

www.haydonbridgehigh.co.uk

Tel: 01434 684422

Number of pupils: 770

Boarding places: 60

Sixth form: 269



Keswick School

Vicarage Hill, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 5QB

School type: Comprehensive School

Age range: 11-18

Gender: Boys and girls

Notes:

- Outstanding boarding and sixth form school status in recent Ofsted inspection
- Excellent examination results with high position in league tables
- Superb location in the heart of the Lake District National Park

www.keswick.cumbria.sch.uk

Tel: 01768 772605

Number of pupils: 1043

Boarding places: 54

Sixth form: 214



Lancaster Royal Grammar School

East Road, Lancaster, LA1 3EF

School type: Grammar School

Age range: 11-18

Gender: Boys

Notes:

- Traditional boys' grammar school with outstanding academic standards
- New, purpose-built boarding houses and excellent extra-curricular programme
- Strong pastoral care – based on mutual respect and mature responsibility

www.lrgs.org.uk

Tel: 01524 580605

Number of pupils: 1000

Boarding places: 200

Sixth form: 310



Ripon Grammar School

Clotherholme Road, Ripon, North Yorkshire, HG4 2DG

School type: Grammar School

Age range: 11-18

Gender: Boys and girls

Notes:

- Outstanding record of academic and extra-curricular activities
- Rolling programme of new facilities in both school and boarding houses
- 23 acres of grounds set in beautiful countryside

www.rippongrammar.co.uk

Tel: 01765 602647

Number of pupils: 815

Boarding places: 80 (co-ed)

Sixth form: 210



The State Boarding Schools' Association represents the 35 state boarding schools of England and Wales. This directory has been produced to give parents an overview of the schools which offer state education combined with boarding. The SBSA cannot advise on availability of places and it has no involvement in the process for placing pupils in SBSA schools. These enquiries should be directed to the schools themselves using the contact details given in the directory entry.

If you have a more general enquiry or wish to know more about boarding you can contact the SBSA on 020 7798 1580 or via the website at www.sbsa.org.uk.



The school is brilliant and the children are really happy there. It has high standards and good discipline. Both pupils and teachers show a lot of respect for each other. The children are really proud of their school. Parent

