

2025/26

Boarding Handbook

sidcot.org.uk



Sidcot
Live Adventurously



Introduction

Welcome to Sidcot

Boarding at Sidcot will give you many fantastic experiences, all of which will make your school days incredibly enjoyable and memorable. We take the responsibility of looking after our boarders very seriously and we know that you will feel at home, safe, secure and settled in no time at all.

This handbook is designed to give you all the information you will need and we hope it answers lots of your questions. There will be further information on the academic, sporting, and co-curricular life of School, but this focuses on what it is like to be a boarder.

Your Housemaster or Housemistress (Hm) will also give you lots of information specific to your Boarding House and current boarders will always be on hand to answer questions.

We are so looking forward to welcoming you into the community.

Kind regards

Amandine Smilevich
Head of Boarding



Life at a Quaker School

In boarding we live out our School's Quaker values.

Sidcot's values as a Quaker School are:

Truth and Integrity: we cherish the truth which enables our young people to develop integrity in what they do and what they think, helping them to build meaningful, lasting relationships.

Equality and Community: we believe all people are of equal worth and aim to build a truly international community that values all individuals and answers the good in everyone.

Peace: we encourage our young people to adopt peaceful methods of dealing with conflict in all its forms, taking both individual and collective responsibility in resolving differences.

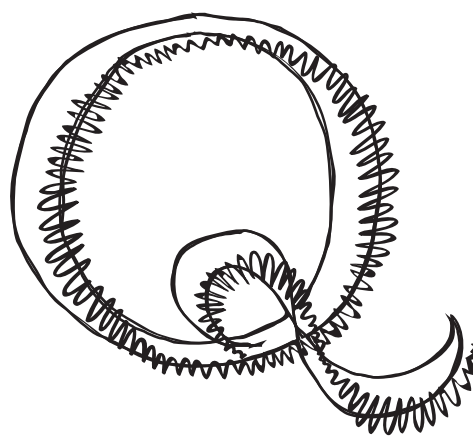
Simplicity: we believe living simply and adventurously, placing charity and concern for others at the centre of what we do.

Sustainability: we believe it is our responsibility to protect the Earth and to teach our young people to treasure and preserve it across the generations.

The Quaker meetings

The whole School community meets together in a 'Morning Meeting' once a week on a Friday. This is a time when all staff and students of whatever faith share a period of quiet reflection – a rare opportunity in today's world. Boarders can also go to Epilogue on a Sunday evening on the first Sunday of the month.

We meet in Sidcot's Quaker Meeting House. The meeting helps students to learn the habit of self-reflection and encourages openness to each other. It involves the experience of silence, the ability to listen and the courage to stand up and speak. If someone wants to share something in the meeting then they can. The Quakers welcome people from all religions, as they believe everyone is equal and the meeting is not religious.



Life at a Quaker School

Our aims in boarding

To ensure that each boarder experiences:

- A happy and stable 'family' environment.
- Freedom from bullying and any form of abuse.
- A structured routine within the demands of school work and the need for time to relax.
- The opportunity to take part in activities either as an individual or member of the community.
- Encouragement and support in meeting the requirements of Sidcot's curriculum.
- Regular communication with parent(s)/guardians.
- The support of House Staff with advice whenever needed.
- The opportunity to grow and develop as an independent and self-reliant person, expecting when appropriate to take part in the full life of the School.
- Equal opportunities in ethnic, cultural, linguistic, religion, gender and disability matters.
- A healthy lifestyle, particularly with respect to alcohol and drug abuse, smoking and healthy eating.

Inevitably in a community such as ours there are rules and regulations which are essential for the good running of the School and the impression it makes on the wider community. All members of the Sidcot community are expected to be sensitive, co-operative, and to show courtesy, consideration and respect for one another.

You should consult The Blue Book for details of general conduct and this is issued to you at the beginning of the School year.

The Boarding Houses

The Boarding Houses

The facilities in each of the four Boarding Houses are very similar. The Houses are homes, places to relax, socialise and share experiences.

Each House has a comfortable common room with TV, DVD and games consoles, Wi-Fi and a small students' kitchen. Each House has a Housemaster or Housemistress (Hm) who is responsible for looking after the students' welfare, and for ensuring that life in the House is a truly enjoyable experience that they will look back on with fondness.

At Sidcot we have four Boarding Houses and you will have been allocated to the one most suitable for you. The four houses are:

Boys

Wing
School House Boys

Girls

Newcombe
School House Girls



The Boarding Houses

Newcombe House is a beautiful old house that has recently been refurbished, close to the Equestrian Centre in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is generally for younger girls. There is room for 21 girls aged between 13 and 16 in shared bedrooms of two or three. Everyone gets to know each other very quickly in this small and friendly house.

The Housemistress is Rosie Sisson.



NEWCOMBE HOUSE

Wing House is located in a fine Edwardian house built in 1905. Wing House, formerly occupied by the Head, overlooks the School gardens and enjoys beautiful views. It has recently been extended and refurbished to provide state of the art accommodation. Wing is home to 38 boys aged between 11 and 18 with 25 bedrooms.

The Housemaster is James Milne.



WING HOUSE

School House Boys is located in the main School building. School House Boys (SHB) is a calm, happy House with lots of contact between staff and students. There is a large common room and the boys enjoy the use of the pool table in the games room. There is capacity for 37 boys between age 15 and 19.

The Housemistress is Amandine Smilevich.



SCHOOL HOUSE BOYS

School House Girls is also located in the main School building, and is a Boarding House for 64 girls between age 16 and 19. Although The House is situated directly above the main School, the homely atmosphere created by the girls and the staff once upstairs is very noticeable. School House Girls is a House where you can unwind after a long day at School and you will always find someone to talk to.

The Housemistress is Amandine Smilevich.



SCHOOL HOUSE GIRLS

Boarding House Staff

All the Housemasters/mistresses are supported by a team of boarding staff who ensure the welfare and well-being of students in the House, providing a stable and non-judgemental environment for students and encouraging a feeling of trust.

Preparation for Sidcot School

Induction

On the very first day when the boarders join the School, they will get a tour of the campus by one of our teachers or office holders and they will meet the house team and the other boarders. It is also an opportunity for the parents to meet everyone.

We also have an induction programme where we will go through our house handbook with the boarders and make sure that they are paired up with a buddy to help them in the house and around the School. We also offer an evening programme the first two weeks where “old” and new boarders can get to know each other a lot better.

Duty staff

You should check your House notice board to find out which staff are on duty so you know who to talk to if you have questions or problems.

Bedrooms

Normally students in Year 11 and below share rooms for two to four students, and Year 12 and 13 students share twin rooms or are allocated single rooms if available. The Housemaster/mistress will place you into a bedroom according to what they think is the best fit. You may share with a boarder from a different nationality.

We provide duvets and covers, pillows and pillow cases and bed sheets. You may want to get your own bedding to make your space more personal. There will be an opportunity to go shopping for this type of thing at the beginning of term. You can also put up pictures and posters on the boards provided.

Packing for life in a Boarding House

You will find that you are provided with storage space: including a wardrobe and a bedside locker. You should not bring monitors, games consoles or catering equipment (kettles, toasters, rice cookers etc.); these are provided in our common room areas. Generally, you need to bring enough clothing to get through about three to four days, as our laundry service operates twice a week.

As well as your clothes and toiletries, the following things would be useful for you to bring:

- Slippers – house shoes to wear in your Boarding House.
- Large towels – you will need your towels for showering and for after sport.
- Two padlocks and spare keys – you will have a lockable area.
- Coat – you will need a coat that will keep you warm and dry as you cope with British weather!
- Shoes – make sure you bring practical shoes that will keep you dry.
- Trainers – you will need sports shoes.
- One set of smart clothes – you will need this for some events in School.
- Navy or black bag – this is for your school books and folders.
- Your device – please read the information on page 20 to ensure your device is suitable for use at Sidcot.

Preparation for Sidcot School

Key things to help in the beginning

The following will make settling-in a little easier:

- Label all your clothing and belongings.
- Confirm with House Staff your contact details and those of the guardian appointed to look after you. Give your House staff your mobile number.

You are encouraged to personalise your room and there is wall space for posters and photos to help you feel more at home.

There will always be someone to help you in your first few days. Remember to ask if you feel unsure about anything.

Cultural diversity

One of the great things about studying at Sidcot is that you are in an international, multi-cultural community where everyone is equal and accepted. There are many diverse cultures represented in the School. It is a wonderful experience to live and study abroad and it will help you develop as a person. However, it is important to remember that you will experience cultural differences and things won't be the same in a boarding environment as at home. At times, you may feel homesick. This is a normal part of adjusting to a new culture.

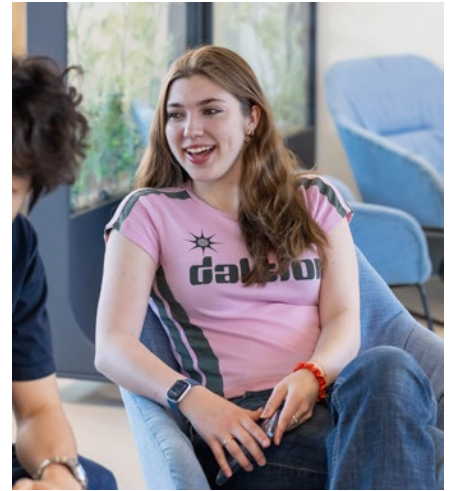
Here is some advice on how to get the most out of your time at Sidcot School:

- Embrace the International community and differences.
- We all have different ways of doing things – they are not right or wrong just different.
- Be flexible and have a sense of humour.
- Ask questions so you understand things better.
- Although we understand that speaking your own language is important and we are happy for you to do so, please speak English in mixed company - don't let anyone feel left out.
- Show respect to everyone.
- Speak to staff if you are finding it hard as they are here to help you.

Consideration for others

We all require space and time on our own as well as time to share with others. Make sure you respect the privacy and the property of other students in your House and room.

You should show politeness, kindness and respect to others in your House. We do not accept discrimination of any kind, including racism, homophobia and sexism. We do not tolerate behaviour that is intended to hurt, injure, threaten, frighten, exclude or make fun of others.



Life at Sidcot as a boarder

Routines

Monday to Friday

07:30 – 08:00	Breakfast
08:00	Back to House to get ready for School
08:25	Leave the House for School
08:30 – 08:45	Tutor time
08:45	Lessons begin
10:25 – 11:15	Assembly/Meeting for Worship/Enrichment Y7-11
11:15	Break time
11:35	Lessons
12:45	Lunch (Sixth Form)
13:10	Lunch (Y11/Upper Fifth Form)
13:15	Lunch rota (Y8-Y10)
13:15 – 13:50	House opens
14:05	Lessons, including afternoon registration
15:50 – 16:50	House opens
16:00 – 16:50	Activities/Prep/Return to House
17:00 – 18:00	Activities/Prep
17:35	Evening Meal, Year 7-11 boarders
17:45	Evening Meal, Sixth Form (day & boarding)
17:55	Evening Meal, day students
18:30	Roll call/Registration & House meeting
19:00 – 20:00	Quiet time/Study time

Roll call/Registration is compulsory.

Please see your House notice board for details of your bedtime.

Saturday

09:00 – 09:30	Breakfast
10:50	Roll call
10:55	Leave House for activities (House closes)
11:00 – 12:30	Activities - Sidcot Saturday
12:30 – 13:00	Lunch
13:00 – 17:30	House opens – Organised activities/Free time
17:30 – 18:00	Evening meal
18:00	House open
18:30	Roll call
19:00	Activities/Free time

Sunday

10:50	Roll call
11:00 – 11:30	Brunch (House closes)
11:30	House opens
11:30	Activities/Free time
17:30	House closes
17:30 – 18:00	Evening meal
18:00	House opens
18:30	Roll call/Registration
19:00	Organised activities/Free time

Life at Sidcot as a boarder

House meetings

House meetings are a vital part of the daily life of the Houses. At these meetings, important information can be given to you and you will have the opportunity to express views/concerns. It is also a chance to celebrate birthdays or notable achievements within the House community.

Who to talk to?

If you have a problem or are worried about something, talk to someone. House staff and your tutor are there to help you. You can also talk to a senior student or a nurse in the Health Centre. The School has an independent listener if you want to talk to someone outside of the School. Please see your House notice board for more information.

Signing in and out

It is important that the staff on duty know where you are. You must always remember to sign out when you leave the House and sign back in when you return. Your House staff will explain how you do this.

Photo ID cards

All students have a photo ID card which must be carried at all times. The School is a secure site and the card allows access to different parts of the School which has keypads at all entry points. Students must email a photo of themselves prior to arrival:

admissions@sidcot.org.uk

Lost cards can be replaced, at a cost of £5, you arrange this through their tutor or the House.

Fire Procedures

We go through the fire procedures at the beginning of each year and there will be a fire evacuation practice each term. House staff will show you the fire exits and explain the fire evacuation procedure. They will also show you where the fire assembly point is for your Boarding House. If the fire bell sounds, then leave the House by the nearest fire exit and go to your fire assembly point for registration. Remember to stay calm and leave your belongings behind.

Quiet/study time

19:00 to 20:00 – At Sidcot, boarders have the opportunity to catch up on their work between these times. If you have completed all your work, you have one hour every evening to be peaceful – either in your room in your House, or in the Library or study rooms for Upper Sixth. There should be no movement on campus during this hour.

Bedtimes

There are different bedtimes depending on what year you are in. Please see the table for details.

Form	Return to house	Lights out
3rd (Y7)	20:30	21:30
L4 (Y8)	20:30	21:30
U4 (Y9)	21:00	22:00
L5 (Y10)	21:00	22:00
U5 (Y11 & Y11PW)	21:30	22:30
L6/U6 (Y12/Y13)	22:00	23:00

All students in Y7-Y11PW must hand in phones and devices 1 hour before lights out Sunday to Thursday. On Friday and Saturday nights, phones and devices are handed in 15 minutes before lights out.

Visitors to House

You're welcome to bring school friends to your House at lunch time and after School. You should ask your Housestaff and make sure your guests sign in and out. You are not allowed to invite friends from outside the School. Visitors are not allowed into bedrooms.

Life at Sidcot as a boarder

Walking to the village

You are allowed to walk down to the local village of Winscombe to visit the shops. Winscombe is referred to at School as the 'Ville'.

During the week

- 15:50 - 16:45

Saturday

- 13:00 – 17:15

Sunday during the day

- All ages 11:30 – 17:15

Evenings

- Monday to Thursday: Sixth Form 19:45 – 21:15
- Friday and Saturday: Upper Fifth 19:00 – 20:00
- Friday and Saturday: Sixth Form 19:00 – 21:15
- Sunday: Sixth Form 19:00 – 20:00

Authorised route – all students should use the pedestrian crossing by the playing fields. Do not cross the A38 from the bottom of the gardens or at the top, near Hillyfields.

During the School week it is very unusual for you to stay away from the House. However, leave is usually given should a parent be visiting the area. It is expected that all arrangements will have been made some time in advance (at least 72 hours) and that you return to School by 08:00 the next morning.

Weekend Activities

On Saturday mornings, boarders participate in a huge range of activities. These activities range from cooking club to sailing and give students an opportunity to pick up new skills over the course of each term. At the start of each half term, students can select the activity that most interests them for the coming weeks.

During the evenings and weekends, you will have access to a programme of extra-curricular activities to choose from. Activities include: badminton, basketball, football, table tennis and swimming in the Sports Centre and horse riding. Other activities may include drama, art, photography and music in

the Sidcot School Arts Centre. Students in Year 11 and below are expected to do at least one activity or excursion every weekend. Weekend events are announced every Monday at roll call; students will then choose an event to participate in at Tuesday roll call. If an activity or excursion requires parental permission, this will need to be submitted by Thursday 12:00 or an alternative activity will be chosen for the student. Trips to Bristol, Bath, and London are organised throughout the year. Other trips may include meals out, theme parks, cinema trips, places of historical interest, abseiling, mountain biking and sporting events.

Weekend/day leave: arrangements are through House Staff

- Weekend Leave must be discussed with House Staff. However, shopping expeditions are included in the Weekend Activities calendar.
- Arrangements for visits to Wells, Weston-super-Mare or Bristol are made by agreement with House Staff.
- Boarders up to Upper Fourth will not usually be given Leave. Trips for those Boarders are arranged through the Weekend Activity Programme.
- Upper Fifth (Year 11) Boarders may visit Wells or Weston-super-Mare on a Saturday departing after activities on Saturday, 12:30, returning by 18:30 for roll call.
- Sixth Form (Years 12 and 13) Boarders may visit Wells, Weston-super-Mare or Bristol on a Saturday. They can choose to leave before activities, returning by 18:30 for roll call.
- On Saturdays, the School provides a minibus to Bristol for Upper Fifth (Year 11) students and Sixth Formers (bookable in advance) leaving Sidcot at 12:45 and returning at 18:30. There is a charge added to the School bill.
- Day leave on Sundays is for Sixth Form, departing Sidcot before 10:00 and returning by 18:30 for roll call.

Life at Sidcot as a boarder

Weekend overnight leave: arrangements are through House Staff

- Requests are to be finalised by Thursday lunchtime.
- For visits to friends etc (i.e. not parents) letters or emails must accompany the request and approval for the Leave will be given once agreement by Parent or Guardian has been received. Approval rests with the Hm.
- House Staff will confirm the arrangements by email or phone.
- Travel Arrangements to and from the House where Leave is undertaken need to be checked carefully. You cannot travel in the car of another student without the specific approval, in writing, of a Parent or Guardian.
- No more than two boarders will be granted leave to the same destination.

Taxis

All taxis must be booked through the School's approved taxi company. A list of these taxis will be on your House notice board or available from House staff. Taxis for social purposes must be paid for at the time of booking and cannot be placed on the School bill.

Food

The School provides three meals per day during term time and you must attend all mealtimes. The food may be different to home, but we hope you will try some new things. You will have a choice of dishes at main meals, including a vegetarian option. Provision is also made for special dietary, medical or religious needs. You can find the menus on the notice boards in all Boarding Houses, or on our website:

www.sidcot.org.uk/boarding/sidcot-boarding/food

Takeaways

Takeaways can be delivered or brought into school on Wednesday, Saturday or Sunday evenings, but no student should be having takeaway more than once a week. Takeaways cannot be ordered or brought into school on any other days.

The Hub

The Hub is a coffee shop on the School campus. The opening hours Monday to Friday are 8:30-10:00, 10:30-12:30, 13:30-15:00 and 15:30-16:30. Your ID card can have money added to it via Firefly (our parent intranet system). All transactions in the Hub need to be made through our ID cards using Wisepay or through contactless debit or credit cards. Details of how to top up an ID card can be found on the Parent Section in Firefly, under the Parent Handbook. This is an effective, safe and easy way of providing you with credit to be used at the Hub when it is open during the day. However, please note that Wisepay can't be accessed until you start at School.

TIMINGS	PERMITTED YEAR GROUPS		
	MORNING BREAK	AFTERNOON BREAK	AFTER SCHOOL
Mo	10,11,12,13	10,11,12,13	All Years
Tu	10,11,12,13	10,11,12,13	All Years
We	9,10,11,12,13	9,10,11,12,13	All Years
Th	8,10,11,12,13	8,10,11,12,13	All Years
Fr	7,10,11,12,13	7,10,11,12,13	All Years

Snacks and drinks

During the School day, fresh fruit and snacks are served in the dining room at break times. You also have access to kitchens in the Boarding Houses at certain times where you can help yourself to snacks (bread, spreads and fruit) and drinks which are provided by the School. There is a rota for collecting supplies for your House kitchen from the dining room.

There are facilities in the House kitchens to prepare hot food. If you wish to keep small amounts of non-perishable food, you need to buy a small air-tight plastic box to keep in your room.

Students are not permitted to take food deliveries from supermarkets. Only food parcels from parents are acceptable.

Life at Sidcot as a boarder

Pocket money

You should not keep a large amount of money on your person. Please hand it in to your House staff for them to look after for you. You may wish to open your own bank account and, if you are over age 16, we can provide you with a bank letter and help you to arrange this. There is a cash-point on the wall at the Lifestyle shop in Winscombe. We recommend that students do not carry more than £20 in cash. All Houses have pocket money accounts where parents can transfer money for their children.

Students can use their photo ID card to make purchases from the Hub (the School's café). Credit can be added to the ID card using WisePay – parents can access this via www.sidcot.org.uk/mysidcot once term has started.

Laundry

The School provides a laundry service and each House has its laundry collected and returned twice a week. On your House notice board you will find details of what days the laundry will be collected from your House and you will also be shown the laundry collection point. It is important that all your clothes are clearly labelled as this means they can be returned to you. You will change your bedding every two weeks.

In each Boarding House there is also a washing machine, tumble drier and ironing board, which older boarders can use with permission. House Staff can show you how to use these facilities.

Cleanliness and personal hygiene

Make sure you stay clean and take a shower every day. If you are sharing a room you need to consider your roommate and make sure your hygiene and cleanliness is good. Don't leave your smelly trainers in your room!

Your bedrooms should be kept tidy and you are expected to make your own bed. Please keep your floor clear, tidy the work surfaces and cupboards, as this will help the cleaners when they clean your rooms.

There is a House kitchen that you can use for making snacks at certain times. It is important that if you use the kitchen that you clean up after you finish and make sure you wash your dishes. You may also be put on a duty rota to help with different tasks that need to be done. House staff will give you more information about this.

Use of toilets

Remember you are sharing the toilet with other people, so make sure you leave it clean after you use it. You can dispose of toilet paper by flushing this away in the toilet in the UK: there are no bins for soiled toilet paper. However, please do not put excessive amounts of toilet paper or other sanitary items in the toilet because you may block it. Girls should put sanitary items in the special bins provided in your toilets. The paper hand towels are to dry your hands after washing them and this paper should be placed in the bins provided not the toilets.

Recycling

It is important to recycle as much waste as possible and you will find there are recycling bins in your Houses and also around the School. Please recycle paper, plastic and aluminium cans.

Life at Sidcot as a boarder

Mobile phones

You should give House staff your mobile number so they can contact you in emergencies. You should also put the School numbers in your phone so you can contact School if you need to. All students will also be added to the house WhatsApp group. All mobile phones, computers and tablets should be switched off after lights out, so you get a good night's sleep.

If you are in Upper Fifth or below, you are expected to hand in your mobile phones and other technology at lights out.

- **Third Form/Year 7–Fifth Form/Year 10 and 11:** Will not be permitted to bring phones into School, phones to be left in the Boarding House.
- **Sixth Form/Year 12 and 13:** Can bring mobile phones into School but must be kept out of sight unless it is requested by a teacher for use in a lesson or used in the Sixth Form Centre.

Internet access

All the Houses have wireless Internet provision. TikTok, Facebook, Instagram and other common social media sites are available in the evenings, but not during the day. The Internet shuts down shortly before bedtime, in order to give you the chance to sleep without distraction. You should not use electronic devices after lights out and parents should not contact you after bedtime. The School believes that the use of ICT is essential in enhancing learning across the curriculum. When you arrive, you will be given a login to the School system and you will need to sign the Schools' Acceptable Use Policy. We will give you details of this with your login.

You must not search for or display any material considered illegal or offensive. The School IT department monitors the use of the Internet to make sure this is followed.

You should have suitable anti-virus software installed on your laptops if you want to use your laptop on the School system.

What is meant by out of sight?

The 'phone remains turned off and out of sight until it is needed in a lesson (with permission). Students will be permitted to use their 'phone out of School on their way home or in the boarding houses.

Third Form, Fourth Form and Fifth Form students who board at the School should leave their phones in their Boarding House during the day. They may use them after School in their Houses and during the evenings. Phones will be collected half an hour before bedtime for students in Year 7-11.

Cameras in the House

You may not use cameras in the bedrooms or bathrooms of the Boarding Houses as you should respect the privacy of other students. You are discouraged from using social media sites to post images taken in School unless you have received the permission of your house staff.



Life at Sidcot as a boarder

Personal belongings

Boarders should arrive at School with a detailed list of their personal belongings. You are responsible for your own belongings and everyone has a lockable cupboard and valuables should be safely locked inside. We do take any theft of personal belongings very seriously and will investigate all instances of missing valuables. If you choose to bring valuable items into School please make sure they are fully labelled, locked away when not in use and House staff are made aware.

We encourage students not to bring valuable items to School; this includes expensive trainers/shoes, designer clothes, tech and jewellery.

Electrical equipment

We live in a 'gadget world' – most students will have a laptop and/or iPads, tablets, mobile phone and hair straighteners. As you bring these items from many different countries, Sidcot has a policy for regularly inspecting and testing your equipment to make sure they are safe on the UK system, which is AC240 volt. We need to make sure things comply with UK/EU standards.

At night, you will be asked to hand in your devices (Year 11 and below) to ensure that you get a good night's sleep.

The most common cause of fire is faulty electrical equipment. It is vital you use the correct adaptor for your type of plug and that either the plug or the adaptor contains a fuse. You will not be able to use any electrical item without it being checked by our School electrician. We would recommend you buy your adaptor in the UK to ensure that it is compliant.

Rice cookers, toasters, kettles, irons, sandwich makers and any item that warms food, electric blankets and heaters are also not allowed in our Houses. Please do not bring any of these items with you.

Staying safe in the UK

Sidcot School is in a very safe and peaceful part of the UK. It is a secure campus with all entry points requiring a key card to enter. However, we encourage all students to follow some basic rules:

- Don't go out alone. Look after each other.
- Be careful when you cross the road and use a pedestrian crossing if there is one. Remember, we drive on the left side of the road in the UK!
- In the UK a police officer is a good person to talk to if you need help. They are friendly!
- When you go off campus make sure House staff know where you are and you carry the contact details of Sidcot School.
- Make sure House staff have your mobile phone number.

Insurance

Boarders must take particular care of expensive technology such as Airpods. On occasions, personal possessions do get damaged and we recommend that parents opt into an insurance scheme. We encourage a culture of reporting accidental damage. If we do discover a boarder is responsible for deliberate damage, we will inform parents and request the full cost of the repair.

There is a lost property box in School for you to check if you do lose something, as it could have been handed in.

Life at Sidcot as a boarder

Health Centre

The School has a fully staffed Health Centre, which is open Monday to Friday from 08:00 to 18:00. Boarders can receive day-to-day care from the nurses, who are all fully qualified. House Matrons support the nursing staff and all resident staff have received First Aid training. You can also use the School's Wellbeing Hub - Rose Cottage, as a drop-in centre when you feel the need for a sympathetic ear and a quiet break away from the fast pace of School. The Health Centre hosts a Doctor's surgery on Thursdays at lunchtimes at 13:15.

You may be required to stay in the Health Centre during the day if you are unwell and return to your Boarding House in the evening and receive care from the House staff under the direction of the Health Centre. When necessary we will take students directly to the hospital. If your condition is more serious, it will be necessary for you to go to your Guardian.

Registering with the School Doctor

As a boarder you are considered to be resident in Sidcot and, therefore, need to be registered with the School Doctor. You will be able to register with the School Doctor at the Health Centre.

Consent to treatment

If a boarder requires specialist medical treatment, every effort will be made to obtain the prior consent of the parent, or guardian or UK guardian, or the student if they are aged 16 or over.

Should this be impossible in the time available, the Headmaster or the Deputy Head (Pastoral), acting in loco parentis, are authorised to give consent to treatment (including anaesthetic or operation) as may be recommended by the School Doctor.

All international students who are coming to Sidcot under a Child Study Visa do not need Private Medical Insurance as they would have paid the NHS (UK National Health service) surcharge as a part of their visa application. This gives them access to all medical treatments while studying in the UK. Additional Private Medical cover is optional. All international students who are coming to Sidcot for a period of under 6 months (no Child Study Visa required) have to have Private Travel/Medical cover.

Annual consent

During the first three weeks of term, parents will be required to fill in our online 'annual consent' form. This is of vital importance and students will not be permitted to attend trips until it is received.

Medication

If you require prescribed medication, this will be arranged by the School Doctor and administered by the School Health Centre.

If you have a health condition that requires you to have medicines available at all times, you need to let the staff at the Health Centre know in writing the name and type of medication as well as the information on dose and frequency. A reserve supply of the medication will be kept in the Health Centre. You are not allowed to keep medicines in the Boarding House without the knowledge of the School Health Centre staff.

Life at Sidcot as a boarder

Personal medical supplies

We ask that you do not bring your own medical supplies to School. If you are on particular medication prescribed by your Doctor at home, then we will keep this medicine locked in the House medical cupboard, or at the School's Health Centre. In particular, we ask that you do not bring home remedies that are not labelled in English, as these will be taken from you on arrival.

Dental health

It is best to get your dental treatment done during the School holidays. The School Health Centre can organise dental and orthodontic visits in an emergency.

Relationships

It is hoped that school is a place to develop good friendships rather than exclusive relationships. You need to understand that school is not the place for physical intimacy and this won't be accepted. Everyone needs to feel comfortable and not be embarrassed by your behaviour.

If you do have a boyfriend or girlfriend then it is expected that you always behave in a way which would be appropriate if a member of staff were in the room with you.

It is against School rules for you to have any form of a sexual relationship. Mixed common rooms are provided in all Boarding Houses. When students visit other houses, they may only go between the entry to the House and the mixed common room or kitchen.

Guardians

All boarding students whose parents are living overseas must have a UK-based guardian. They must be someone who lives within a reasonable distance of Sidcot.

The guardian may be a family relative or a family friend who is over 25 years of age, who is not a full-time student, hasn't received a custodial sentence of 12 months or more in the UK or abroad, holds a British/Irish passport or has EU settled/pre-settled status or ILR – Indefinite Leave to Remain. Guardians cannot reside in the UK on a non-permanent visa – work, student, tourist or any other similar type of visa). If this is not possible, the student must use the services of a guardian agency.

You will be expected to provide the name and contact details of a UK guardian before you arrive at Sidcot. We would like to emphasise the importance of a UK guardian, who might be asked to accompany you on journeys between the School and the airport as well as looking after you during holidays or half-term breaks, or in emergency situations (until the houses open), when you are ill.

Guardians are particularly important at the beginning and end of term, to ensure you are collected and dropped off at the appropriate time. You will find our full guardianship policy via the following link for more information:

www.sidcot.org.uk/admissions/documents-and-forms

Life at Sidcot as a boarder

Uniform

Please do not order any uniform before arriving at Sidcot. We understand that sizes can be difficult to guess. Our matrons will help you try different sizes to ensure the right order is placed. This will be part of your induction programme.

Details of the uniform you will need can be found here:

sidcot.org.uk/uniform

If you have any queries please email:

uniform@sidcot.org.uk

School shoes should be plain black, polished and without a heel.

Bring black tights and also make sure that you have a pair of black or grey trousers in case you need to wait for yours to be delivered from the uniform shop.

ALL CLOTHING MUST BE NAMED

Hair, jewellery and make up

Your hair should be neat, clean, and of a natural colour. If you have long hair then it should be tied up and off the face during School time.

You should not wear jewellery with uniform. If you have pierced ears you may wear retainer studs but only one in each ear. Other piercings, including nose studs, are not permitted. You can also wear one single neck chain discretely under your uniform.

If make up is worn it should be subtle. Nail varnish of any sort (including false nails) is not allowed below Sixth Form.

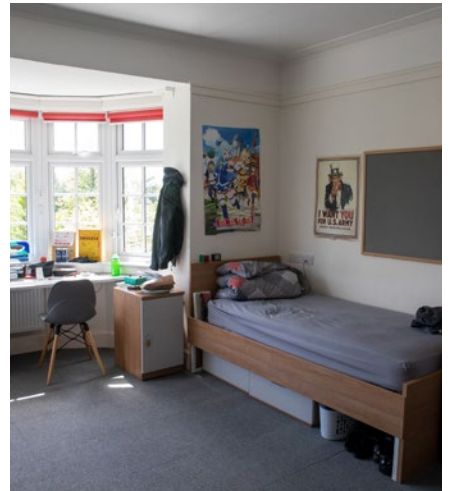
Sixth Form and clothing

One of the privileges of being a Sixth Form student at Sidcot School is that you are not required to wear a school uniform and you can wear your own clothes. However, you will need to wear formal dress on Mondays and for some School events. Therefore, students are required to have a business suit and should have either a skirt suit or trouser suit, or a dress with a jacket.

During the School day, you are expected to dress in a clean and tidy manner. The following are not appropriate forms of dress code:

- Tracksuit bottoms
- Faded, torn or scruffy items of clothing
- Old and scruffy footwear.
- Shorts/short skirts
- Flip-flops
- Clothing with unacceptable pictures/words
- Strappy tops/crop tops

Sixth Formers need to wear School PE and games kit which can be ordered in the first few days of your arrival at Sidcot in September.



Life at Sidcot as a boarder

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD): Digital Technology in the Classroom

As we all know, technology is now a significant part of all of our lives. The way we do things around the home and the way we do things at work are constantly changing as the technology develops. There is plenty of research evidence to support the value that technology brings to the educational experience. Some key areas are: communication, practical research, collaboration, self-management, and digital citizenship.

Who is required to have an IT device at Sidcot?

All students from Year 7 upwards are required to bring a device for use in lessons. (Students on the Year 11 Pathway programme will be provided with a device.)

Many students will already have a device. If you would like to discuss if this is appropriate or discuss specifications for a new device please contact:

BYOD@sidcot.org.uk

Who is responsible for IT devices in School?

Students are solely responsible for their device. They must bring it fully charged to School. As with other personally owned items, the School is not liable for loss, damage, misuse, or theft. Please arrange your own insurance cover for your child's personal belongings either through the Personal Effects Insurance (offered by the School), or by your own arrangements.

Device specification:

- **10" screen or larger**
10" is the minimum to ensure students can see the work they need to complete easily.
- **Must be able to use a stylus**
This is so notes can be taken in the lessons and any work requiring to be handwritten could be done on the device.
- **Can use a keyboard**
A keyboard is needed to assist with tasks that require more typing e.g. essays or project write-ups.
- **Be able to run Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel and Teams/OneNote**
These are the core apps needed in School. The mobile version and online version are suitable for most tasks. If more is required, remote access can be used.
- **Strongly advise that it be a Microsoft based device**
This is the operating system that we know works best with the School's systems.
- **Battery life**
5 hours or more to ensure that only minimal or no charging is needed during the day.
- **IMPORTANT: Does NOT have mobile data e.g. 4G/5G etc.**
In line with recommendations previously published to parents and available in the Parent Handbook on Firefly.

Resources will be provided to help students connect their device to the School network. Your child must be familiar with how to use their device. Teachers will incorporate the use of your child's device into learning. However, they will not provide technical support. Clear guidelines have been placed around the use of BYOD in School; this is documented in the BYOD Acceptable Use Policy.

Life at Sidcot as a boarder

Free access to Microsoft Office for all Sidcot BYOD users:

This can be downloaded and used for FREE from the School whilst your child is a student at Sidcot.

Can your child use their device in examinations?

Please note that even though our normal way of working in lessons will be with the use of IT, to qualify for use in public exams will require a child with a specific learning need. This can only be done with the approval of our SEN Coordinator. The 'normal' default is IT will not be used in public examinations.

If you have any questions about the scheme please contact:

BYOD@sidcot.org.uk

The House system

As well as your Boarding House, you will be assigned to a virtual House when you join our School community. The virtual House system helps students to build friendships across the year groups and provides a focus for School events and activities throughout the year. These include House sports, Sidcot's Got Talent, teambuilding trips and activities, Inter-house Music competitions, charity fundraising and much more!

There are four Houses:

- North House (yellow)
- East House (blue)
- South House (green)
- West House (red)

Each House has a House Captain from Lower Sixth. There are also House representatives from Third Form to Upper Fifth, so plenty of opportunity to get involved. You will be assigned to a House within the first few days you arrive. Siblings are in the same Houses. You will be sent a welcome note from your Head of House and a lanyard in your House colour.

House points

The system operates in all years and is designed to encourage pupils' effort, to give some immediate reward and to give form tutors an opportunity to monitor progress. House points can be awarded for:

- Excellent effort.
- Academic achievement.
- Club/activity (commitment, effort etc.).
- Boarding

Life at Sidcot as a boarder

Boarders at Sidcot behave well and are asked to follow the simple guidelines regarding behaviour. Boarding is based on trust. If a student does break the rules, we have a clear and fair system that will encourage them to stick to the rules in future.

Rule broken

Late return to House in evening.

Late for roll call/kitchen duty.

Late getting to bed, or being out of bed at an inappropriate time.

Failing to sign out.

Late return from leave without notice.

Computer or mobile phone in use after bedtime.

Late leaving the House.

Rudeness.

Not tidying rooms.

Consequence

First Offence: Warning.

Continued Offences: House gating*.

First Offence: Warning.

Continued Offences: Community service e.g. sorting laundry, kitchen duty, recycling.

First Offence: Warning.

Second Offence: Early bed the next evening – 30 minutes early, gating, devices confiscated over the weekend, reflection time.

First Offence: Warning.

Second Offence: Gating.

No Leave the following weekend.

First Offence: Device withheld for 1-3 days.

Second Offence: Device withheld for one week.

Device withheld for 1-3 days.

Community service.

First Offence: Warning.

Second Offence: Gating.

*A gating means that a student must stay in the House. and hand in all devices.

Life at Sidcot as a boarder

Alcohol, smoking and illegal substances

Students must not purchase, possess or consume alcoholic beverages when at School, or enter an establishment that serves alcohol, when travelling to and from School, when on a School trip or during a period of leave.

Students are not allowed to smoke or to use any form of e-cigarette. This applies to anywhere on the School site and also during periods of leave.

Sidcot School takes a very firm stance in relation to illegal substances and other harmful substances and the use of such is strictly forbidden.

The Smoking, Drugs and Alcohol Policy is available on the School website:

www.sidcot.org.uk/policies

Bullying

We do not tolerate bullying, and do not allow casual and inappropriate treatment in group situations to go unchallenged. If a student discloses to a member of staff that they are suffering from bullying in the Boarding House, he or she will be listened to sympathetically. The issue will be brought to the attention of the Housemaster/mistress, who will then decide whether to involve the Form Tutor and Head of Year. The School's Anti-Bullying Policy can be viewed on the School website:

www.sidcot.org.uk/policies

Complaints

If you have a specific complaint relating directly to boarding, please contact House duty staff. If you feel that the issue remains unresolved, you can speak with the Deputy Head (Pastoral) who will do their best to help.

Sidcot also has a formal Complaints Procedure that is aimed to protect the rights of boarders if you feel unfairly treated.

- All complaints will be notified to, and handled in the first instance by, the Deputy Head, or other senior person.
- All complaints will be dealt with promptly and appropriately to ensure fairness
- A copy of the School's Complaints Procedure can be viewed on the website:

www.sidcot.org.uk/policies



Life at Sidcot as a boarder

Term dates

Autumn Term 2025

Induction day	Friday 29 August
Boarders return	Friday 29 August
Term begins	Monday 1 September
Half term begins	Friday 17 October
Boarders return	Sunday 2 November
Term resumes	Monday 3 November
Term ends and Boarders depart	Friday 12 December

Spring Term 2026

Boarders return	Monday 5 January
Term begins	Tuesday 6 January
Half term begins	Friday 13 February
Boarders return	Sunday 22 February
Term resumes	Monday 23 February
Term ends and Boarders depart	Wednesday 1 April

Summer Term 2026

Boarders return	Monday 20 April
Term begins	Tuesday 21 April
Half term begins	Friday 22 May
Boarders return	Sunday 31 May
Term resumes	Monday 1 June
Term ends and Boarders depart	Thursday 2 July

Half-term holidays

During holidays, the School is closed and you will not be able to stay on campus. You can either go home or stay with your guardian. It is not acceptable for you to stay in a hotel or other rented accommodation. Your parent/guardian will need to provide your house staff with accommodation and travel information.

Beginning and end of term arrangements

Our term dates are published well in advance so it is important that your parents organise your transport accordingly. If flights are arriving at a time that does not allow easy transfer back to Sidcot, it is necessary for your parents to make suitable arrangements with your guardian. You will need to stay with them until the School reopens at 16:00.

You should book your flight for the last day of term and not leave before this day. The School will provide transport to Heathrow airport and Bristol airport. If an early departure is authorised, students needing to leave their House before 06:00 must leave School the night before and stay with guardians or host families. Similarly, if you can't arrive at School by 23:00 you will need to stay with your guardian or host family, returning to School the following morning.

You should not leave for your holidays before the end of term as you will miss important lessons. If you are a Visa student, it is also important that you do not miss several days of School as your sponsorship could be withdrawn.

In the summer term, Year 11 and Year 13 students should arrange to leave School upon completion of their final exam.

Leave to be away from the House/School

We will require your parents and the person inviting you (i.e. their parents) to email the House to confirm the arrangements.

Do not leave it until the last minute! You must have everything completed by Thursday lunchtime, prior to weekend leave, to give everyone plenty of time to get things sorted.

Life at Sidcot as a boarder

School calendar

Parents can access the School calendar via the homepage of the website or www.sidcot.org.uk/calendar/weekly. This provides an up to date feed of all School events.

How we communicate with parents

We make every effort to keep parents up to date with useful dates and information as well as news of what is happening at School. Below is a summary of the different elements and how to access them. It is very important that parents provide us with their email address. The email address we have for parents is the one given during the enrolment process. If you're unsure what email address we hold for you, please call Reception on 01934 843102 or email:

info@sidcot.org.uk

Parent portal

In the School community we communicate via the Parent Portal. It is a "live" site and is constantly changing and being updated with new material. Parents can use the Parent Portal to see your timetable, attendance record, and details about your homework. They will also be able to amend their contact details via the Parent Portal. Please click here to access the portal:

<https://sidcot-school.myschoolportal.co.uk>

If you need any assistance logging in to the Parent Portal contact parentportal@sidcot.org.uk. If parents attend the induction day, our IT team will support them to log in.

SIMS InTouch – Email

From time to time parents will receive emails from us which have an @capita address. This is a system which allows us to communicate with certain groups of parents. This includes permission letters, reports and alerts.

Weekly news

There is a Senior School newsletter which is a weekly summary of all that has happened across the School. Within the weekly newsletter, you will also receive the parent planner which includes key upcoming dates and information for each year group. This is accessed via a button at the top of the newsletter. It is emailed to parents and students via their school email address on a Friday. You can request for the newsletter to be sent to a number of different email addresses per family by contacting:

communications@sidcot.org.uk

Student email address

We would appreciate your support in encouraging your child to check and use their school email address. They will be given their address by their tutor at the start of term.



Sidcot

Live Adventurously

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Senior School Reception | 14 Newcombe House |
| 2 Junior School | 15 Combe House |
| 3 Sports Centre | 16 Meadows |
| 4 Equestrian Centre | 17 Main Car Park |
| 5 Arts Centre | 18 Junior Car Park |
| 6 Trevelyan Library | 19 Senior Drop-Off & Pick Up |
| 7 Teaching Block | 20 School Garden |
| 8 Science Block | 21 James O'Connell Peace Field |
| 9 Meeting House | 22 Junior Sports Field |
| 10 Health Centre | |
| 11 School House Girls | |
| 12 School House Boys | |
| 13 Wing House | |



For safeguarding reasons

Please report to our Senior School Reception (1) if you are visiting our campus.

Useful contacts

Here is a list of useful contacts for you at Sidcot.

Main School phone

Telephone: +44 (0) 1934 843102
Email: reception@sidcot.org.uk

Deputy Head (Pastoral)

Joanna Leite

Email: joanna.leite@sidcot.org.uk

Fee enquiries

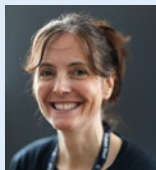
Telephone: +44 (0) 1934 845227
Email: feesenquiries@sidcot.org.uk

Health Centre

Telephone: +44 (0) 1934 845263
Email: health@sidcot.org.uk

Newcombe House

Main House phone: +44 (0) 1934 843326
House mobile phone: +44 (0) 7471 900656
Email: newcombe@sidcot.org.uk



Housemistress:
Rosie Sisson
rosie.sisson@sidcot.org.uk

School House Boys

Main House phone: +44 (0) 1934 843441
House mobile phone: +44 (0) 7471 900651
Email: shb@sidcot.org.uk



Housemistress:
Amandine Smilevich
amandine.smilevich@sidcot.org.uk

Wing House

Main House phone: +44 (0) 1934 845277
House mobile phone: +44 (0) 7471 900653
Email: wing@sidcot.org.uk



Housemaster:
James Milne
james.milne@sidcot.org.uk

School House Girls

Main House phone: +44 (0) 1934 843544
House mobile phone: +44 (0) 7471 900652
Email: shg@sidcot.org.uk



Housemistress:
Amandine Smilevich
amandine.smilevich@sidcot.org.uk



Sidcot School
Oakridge Lane
Winscombe
North Somerset
BS25 1PD

+44 (0)1934 843102 | info@sidcot.org.uk | www.sidcot.org.uk

    [sidcotschool](https://www.instagram.com/sidcotschool)

Registered Charity Number: 296491

