

Boarding at Leighton Park

"I love the atmosphere and how the whole place feels like home"

Year 10 pupil.

Leighton Park is more than just a school: it is a community that offers young people an exceptional and enriching preparation for life. The five boarding houses form the heart of the community, integrating all day and boarding pupils. The sense of community extends to staff who give generously of themselves and their time with enthusiasm and an outstanding commitment. Pupils can make friends of all ages, from all over the country and the world, developing well balanced friendships. All five houses are fully co-educational with separate boarding areas for girls and boys. Pupils can mix socially in the shared areas of the houses, experiencing a residential environment, which helps with their transition to university life.

Home from home

Those living away from home need a comfortable and secure environment where they can study, but also grow as individuals. Each of the houses quickly becomes a home to those who live there – whether full, weekly or day boarders who stay for the occasional night. Fryer, home pupils in Years 7 and 8, is described in the Good Schools Guide as having "a lively, warm environment with lots of space for recreation, prep and outdoor activities." Senior pupils are accommodated in Grove, Field, Reckitt and School Houses.

All houses have their own particular character and strengths. Sixth Formers usually have single study bedrooms; younger pupils typically share a room with one to three others and pupils are encouraged to make their bedrooms as homely as possible. Each house has its own library, study area, games and television rooms and kitchenettes where pupils can prepare snacks.

Weekly boarding

With no Saturday school, weekly boarders can benefit from the independence that comes from staying away from home during the school week. Weekly boarders leave after school finishes on Friday and return on Sunday evening or Monday morning.

Full boarding

Full boarders have a balanced programme for the weekends, giving them time to study and take part in organised activities on The Park or off-site and enjoy some well-earned relaxation time. A normal weekend would enable a student to complete prep, take part in sports or music practice, perhaps go to the cinema, shopping or a more formal activity which includes trips to London and Oxford. There is also time to relax in the houses with friends. Pupils' safety and security are of the highest importance; clear and well-enforced rules guide how and when they may leave the school grounds.

The latest Ofsted report for boarding classified the provision for helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do as "outstanding".

Settling in

Starting a new school is an exciting experience, but can be an anxious time for a young person, especially if they are boarding. There is a buddy system in place to help pupils settle into their new environment to ensure that they soon feel comfortable and at home.

"Being a boarder gave me a more involved school experience. At university I find myself talking about school and "house life" with an affection that is obviously alien to so many other people."

Old Leightonian Boarder

International community

Leighton Park has a long tradition of welcoming young people from many different countries; within the school community most major faiths are represented. With so many different backgrounds, religions, nationalities and cultures, Leighton Park offers a vision of how the world might be. Pupils mix positively with people from different backgrounds and learn to value the insights that other cultures can offer. All of this is achieved within the distinctive Quaker ethos of the school.

An ideal location

Leighton Park is well situated just outside London. It has excellent rail and road links with London, Heathrow Airport and other parts of the UK. The school enjoys the unusual combination of green and spacious parkland together with outstanding facilities for academia, music, drama, art, sport and leisure.

