

# Policy on Enrolment for Boarders

For the Board of Proprietors

NAG 5 – Student Management- Health and Safety

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## RATIONALE

The provision of boarding is integral to Woodford House. In the boarder enrolment process the School shall aim to provide clarity for both parents and those administering the policy, be fair, encourage loyalty to the School and protect the viability of the school, given the substantial investment in Woodford House's boarding facilities.

## BACKGROUND

In April 2004, the Ministry of Education–Te Tāhuhu of te Mātauranga, initiated the Woodford House BoT Enrolment Scheme for enrolments from 2005. The Enrolment Scheme covered both boarders and day girls, but was more likely to be applied to day girls where places are often limited.

There are enrolment priorities. All students have to fulfil certain criteria relating to the school's Special Character in order to qualify as **Preferential Students**.

## SPECIAL CHARACTER AND DETERMINATION OF PREFERENCE

Woodford House, founded in 1894, is a school for Year 7 to 13 girls. It became integrated in the State System under the Integration Act 1975 on 28 January 1999.

The Woodford House Deed of Integration dated December 1998, is unique and was granted solely to preserve the Woodford House Anglican tradition.

Both the Crown and the Board of Proprietors are responsible for ensuring that the Special Character is properly maintained and preserved according to the Private Schools' Conditional Integration Act 1975.

It is the responsibility of the Woodford House Board of Proprietors to ensure preservation of our Special Character as the Deed of Integration provides for in clauses 17 and 18, viz;

17. *The School's Special Character as hereinafter described shall incorporate education with a Special Character as provided in the School AND IT IS HEREBY AGREED AND DECLARED that the School shall at all times in the future be conducted and operated so as to maintain and preserve the School's Special Character and these presents shall be interpreted so as to maintain and preserve the Special Character of the School.*
18.
  - a) *Woodford House provides a sound, single sex, liberal education for day students and boarders from Year 7 to Year 13 within a caring and secure Christian environment. While it is interdenominational, the school has a historical and continuing relationship with the Anglican Church of New Zealand through the Bishop of Waiapu and the School Chaplain.*

- b) *The Special Character is defined, preserved and administered through the constitution of the Board of Proprietors through its appointed Board of Trustees from time to time.*
- c) *The principal expressions of the Special Character within the School Community are:*
- *Adherence to a Christian doctrine and practice through regular observances and ceremonies;*
  - *The centrality of the Chapel as the heart of the School;*
  - *The pastoral care of the chaplaincy;*
  - *The inclusion of religious instruction and ethics as an integral part of the curriculum;*
  - *The incorporation of Christian principles and values throughout all aspects of the life of the School;*
  - *The unity of day and boarding components achieved through a programme of religions, recreational and cultural pursuits in which all students participate;*
  - *A particular commitment to providing boarding facilities for students from the East Coast rural communities;*
  - *The provision of a warm, protecting, caring and stimulating learning environment for students of all academic abilities;*
  - *The musical diversity of the School led by the Chapel Choir;*
  - *The emphasis on speech and drama as a foundation for character development;*
  - *The provision of outstanding sporting and physical education facilities together with the emphasis on participation at all levels”.*

Section 21(a) of the Deed of Integration states a preference of enrolment under Section 19(1) of the Act “shall be given to those with parents or guardians who have established a particular connection with the school through membership of, or affiliation with the Anglican Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, or a general connection with the Special Character of the School through acceptance of the statement of Special Character. A student will not be given preference for enrolment unless the Board of Proprietors are satisfied that the student’s parents have established a particular or general connection with the Special Character of the School.”

After taking into consideration the above statement, priorities for **Preferential Students are:**

First Priority	Students who are accepted into a Woodford House boarding house. Boarding enrolments are accepted in the following order:
	A Sisters of students who are currently attending the School;
	B Sisters of students who have attended the School;
	C Daughters of permanent staff members;
	D Daughters of former students of the School;

- E Daughters of Board Members;
- F Daughters of Ministers who provide regular liturgy at the School Chapel services;
- G. Daughters of those who have had a leadership role in key school organisations;
- H. First come first served of eligible applications received.

The maximum domestic student roll under Integration is 355 with up to 150 as day students.

### **AIMS**

1. To enable access to the School for those girls who will best thrive in this environment and whose needs Woodford House, by way of its Special Character, is able to address in educational learning, social development and religious instruction.
2. To provide clear guidelines for both parents and the Principal for entry into Woodford House as a full or weekly boarder.
3. To protect the viability of the school and the substantial investment in Woodford House boarding facilities.
4. To encourage loyalty to the boarding school from both students and parents.

### **GUIDELINES**

1. Applicants for Woodford House must be willing to accept the conditions of the Special Character, as outlined above.
2. An eligible applicant, who fulfils the requirements of the School's Special Character, will be placed on a waiting list. First come, first served will apply for each year group.
3. The attitude and behaviour of a student, in relation to the Special Character of Woodford House, and their family's adherence to the Special Character, will be reviewed as part of the application and will determine the place on the waitlist.
4. Both the student and parents/guardians must attend a formal interview with the Principal.
5. A copy of a recent school report must be provided.
6. The Principal may contact the applicant's current school.
7. The Principal, on behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Board of Proprietors, will rely on the information gathered to decide if a student meets the application criteria for enrolment at Woodford House. The School's Special Character requirements, existing facilities, education requirements, enrolment policy rules and pupil support networks are also a consideration during the application assessment. With Woodford House's

Special Character in mind, the student's attitude to wanting to come to Woodford House and the student's expected behaviour within the School will be considered.

8. When there are more applicants than places available, class size restrictions will be considered. In this case, Board of Proprietors will follow the priorities for Preferential Students as given in the current Enrolment policy.
9. The Principal will write to parents/guardians to either offer or decline a place for the student. A written acceptance by the parents/guardians of Woodford House Special Character, code of conduct and payment of the Disbursements Deposit and Boarding Enrolment Fee secures a place. The position at Woodford House is only confirmed upon the family receiving confirmation of place letter from the Principal.
10. Boarders are encouraged to embrace the boarding culture at Woodford House by engaging in the opportunities to develop their leadership qualities and contribute to boarding life up to and including Year 13.
11. Because of the pressure for day girl places, a student who enrolls as a Year 9-13 boarder and is accepted as such will be ineligible to change her status to a day girl. However, **as from 2016, a student may enrol as a Year 7 or 8 boarder and still have their day girl application roll over to the relevant Year 9 day girl waiting list**, provided they live within the day girl zone. If a day girl place becomes available for them to start in Year 9, according to their placement on the list, then they have the option of changing to a day girl. If a day girl place does not become available by the beginning of their Year 9 year, then their application is removed from the day girl waiting list and they continue as a boarder until the end of their schooling at Woodford House.
12. The Board of Proprietors will consider the transfer of a boarder to day girl and reverse, within siblings, if there is space available in the relevant day girl year group at the time of the new day girl application. A request to transfer should be made in writing to the Principal by the parents/guardians.
13. Day girls can board for a period of time at the discretion of the Principal. Weekly or full boarder status will be confirmed as part of the application. The student must comply with the rules outlined for boarders while they are in the care of the School. The student's day girl place will be kept open until the end of the current year, or at the Principal's discretion. This will be reviewed on an annual basis.
14. If a boarding student wishes to leave before the end of Year 13, her parents/guardians must notify the School in writing, with one full term's notice or before the end of Term 3. Fees, in lieu of a written notice, will be charged as per the Enrolment Contract.

**Selection:** The selection process described for students in priority groups listed above will operate at each year level, depending on the number of places deemed by the Principal, BoT and BoP to be available at each year

level. In any year, however, places are likely to be limited between Years 10 to 13.

**Informing parents/guardians:** Parents/guardians will be notified of their approximate place on the waiting list as part of the process during year prior to entrance. If places become available at a later date, places will be offered according to their place on the waiting list.

If a student is offered a position but declines the place for any reason, the student's position on the waitlist in the future is not assured.

**This policy will be reviewed as required or biennially.**

Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ Signed for the BoP

February 2023

**Next scheduled review: Term 1, 2025**

Previous reviews:

11 May 2018

22 September 2020