



Boarding @ Columba FAQ

Day-to-day life

Who supervises the boarders?

The General Manager leads day to day boarding at Columba College.

Supervisors are responsible for the day to day "hands-on" pastoral care and formal supervision of boarders. Supervisors are supported by residential assistants and GAP Tutors who assist with co-curricular activity and mentoring. Generally, residential assistants are also students of Otago University.

How many boarders are there and where do they come from?

Columba College has 110 boarding students, which represents 20% of the school roll.

Approximately 40% are drawn from rural areas of Otago/Southland and 30% are drawn from the Central Otago, Queenstown Lakes area. A small number come from wider New Zealand and overseas.

What time do boarders get up and go to bed?

Year 7, 8 & 9: Rising at 7.00am Bedtime lights out at 9.15pm

Year 10: Rising at 7.15am Bedtime lights out 9.30pm

Year 11: Rising at 7.15am Bedtime lights out at 9.45pm

Year 12: Rising at 7.30am Bedtime lights out at 10pm

Year 13: Rising at 7.30am Bedtime lights out at 10pm

On Friday and Saturday evenings, the bedtime routine commences 30 minutes later

Parent access

How much access do parents have?

We encourage regular communication between boarders and their families. No longer are there enforced separations of a boarder from her family. Boarders see their parents regularly through home and school visits. Parents are welcome to visit and take their daughter out for a meal during the week or out for the day at weekends. Parents are always welcome at sports fixtures and other school activities as advertised.

What are the leave arrangements?

Boarding staff are required to know the whereabouts of all boarders at all times. For this reason boarders are not permitted to leave school grounds without permission from duty staff. Boarders on leave must report out when leaving and report in on their return. Boarders may apply to take leave on most weekends, subject to meeting any school commitments such as sport.

How much communication is there between house staff and parents?

Staff communicate regularly with parents via newsletters, email and telephone. Parents who wish to visit are always welcome.

Do boarders attend prep?

Prep is an important part of the weekly routine.

All boarders have a period of supervised study time Monday to Thursday evenings and as such must have homework, revision, online tutorials or silent reading that they can complete during this time.

What do boarders do after school and at weekends?

A wide range of recreational activities is available to boarders outside of school hours. Columba caters for most major sporting codes and also provides students with the opportunity to participate in cultural activities such as productions and musical showcases. Rehearsals and sports practice/events are held after school and on the weekend. Boarders may also apply for leave to visit town, which is a 10 minute walk away, and are at liberty to make use of the school's library and recreational facilities.

Do boarders have internet access? How is this monitored?

Boarders' devices can be connected to the school's wireless internet network, although boarders can also access school computers. Columba uses software to monitor the network.

Where do boarders eat and what is the food like?

All boarders eat at the dining hall. Meals are prepared on-site and are based on dietary guidelines specific to adolescent girls. Boarders with special dietary requirements (e.g. vegetarian, gluten free) are catered for.

What are the laundry arrangements?

Sheets and pillowslips are provided and are laundered professionally.

Where possible, boarders are encouraged to complete their own laundry. Laundry facilities located in each house are equipped with automatic washing machines and tumble dryers.

Where boarders are not able to complete their own laundry, housekeeping staff and GAP tutors are available to support them with this.

Healthcare and counselling

What are the healthcare arrangements?

Shift supervisors are the first point of contact for boarders who are unwell and for those who have sustained any injury. As a minimum, all supervisors have a current first aid certificate and have received training in emergency and non-emergency care. Rostering of staff is managed to ensure that there is at least one staff member on duty with a current first aid certificate at all times.

If boarders require care outside the parameters of general first aid, supervisory staff will arrange contact with the appropriate medical professional. Columba College has an arrangement with the Roslyn Medical Centre (Dr Marj Copeland) for general practice services, however boarders and their families are able to choose alternative health care providers if they wish.

Does Columba offer counselling and support services?

Columba has two counsellors (one a fully qualified clinical psychologist) and a chaplain. House staff, among others, are also available to provide support and guidance to boarders as and when necessary. We encourage our boarders to talk with whomever they feel comfortable if they are experiencing difficulties.

What is the school's policy on bullying?

Columba does not tolerate bullying. We believe that bullying is unacceptable and cannot be ignored. To deal with bullying, we must first know about it and then it is dealt with promptly and effectively.

Joining the Columba Boarding Family

How do I apply?

Online enrolment is available on our website: www.columbacollege.school.nz/admissions/