

**Crises affecting boarder’s welfare**

**What constitutes a crisis?**

There are any number of events that may constitute a crisis for boarders such as a fire in the main building, a major epidemic of an infectious disease or an allegation of some sort of abuse by a boarding staff member, etc.

**What should be our response?**

Our response should be such that in every eventuality the school does everything it can to safeguard and promote the welfare of the boarders.

**Major Incidents – guidelines for first 24hrs action**

**Fire**

The Children’s House is sufficiently separate from the main building that that no two of them should ever be affected by fire at the same time. Management of boarding following a fire would take place as follows:

* Evacuate to assembly point
* Move as many students as possible to the Children’s House.
* Set up a temporary kitchen and dining.
* Plans are made to evacuate them back to their family or guardian wherever possible.
* Once the young people have been re-housed clothed and fed a further assessment for the continued operation of the school would have to take place.

**Infectious illness**

If any boarder is diagnosed as having an infectious illness they are immediately put into the medical sick room and plans are made to evacuate them back to their family or guardian wherever possible. If a mass outbreak of an infectious illness were to occur (particularly involving overseas students whose guardians could not accommodate them at short notice), additional bedrooms would be annexed as medical rooms (these depending on the number of cases requiring treatment).

**Allegation of abuse**

This would be a very serious incident. The school already has in a Safeguarding Policy and system for dealing with allegation against as staff member in such this section will address the welfare of the boarder(s) concerned.

* The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) would be contacted for advice on the procedure to be followed.
* If in a state of distress, the boarder(s) involved would be removed to a private room.
* A professional, external counsellor may be employed to support the boarders.

**Other crises**

Other crises would be dealt with on assessment.