



Liverpool College

Closure of Boarding Provision at Liverpool College

Why are we consulting?

Liverpool College is consulting on closing its boarding provision.

As this proposal would be classed as making a significant change to the school, we must hold a consultation process with our stakeholders.

What is the boarding provision at Liverpool College?

Liverpool College is a state boarding school. This means fees are charged for residential accommodation and boarding costs but education provision is provided for free. Boarding students access their education at the day school.

Our boarding provision is small with a maximum number of 21 places available for secondary aged pupils, although has not been operating at full capacity. Boarders can be full time, weekly, or part time. Those boarding have included those whose families live abroad, in the UK and also locally.

Boarding has historically formed part of the wider school offer at Liverpool College and our boarding team provide an exceptional experience to our boarding students.

What is the rationale for this proposal?

The costs of operating the boarding provision (staffing, catering, accommodation, and operational) must be covered by the boarding fees paid by parents as costs cannot be subsidised or covered from other school funding streams/sources.

Despite a concerted and proactive effort at a variety of marketing strategies this academic year, the confirmed enrolment figures for boarding for next year, and projected for future years, unfortunately are not at a level that supports a financially sustainable and viable boarding provision.

This is no reflection on the quality of the provision on offer but rather this fall in numbers reflects a pattern in boarding recruitment and enrolment across the country and the market for state boarding is likely to remain uncertain and unstable. This also means that it is unlikely that the outcome of future year recruitment would be any different.

It is also likely that the reduction of the boarding community to a very small number would impact on the ability to deliver a broad and varied boarding curriculum and experience.

While the timing of this proposal appears late in the academic year, it does reflect our experience with the time frame for boarding recruitment and a wish to leave the recruitment window open for as long as possible to see if enrolment numbers could be increased to a viable amount.

What impact will this decision have?

Educational Provision

This decision will have no impact on the school's day-to-day educational provision or lead to any operational changes in the school.

Boarding Community

Separate and individual discussions are taking place with the small number of boarding students and their families who are affected by this proposal as well as those employed as boarding staff. There are proposals to mitigate the impact of a closure of the provision, including ensuring the continuation of educational provision for boarding students.

School Admissions

In our admissions policy, there are 3 boarding places available for entry into Year 7. These are allocated by a separate admissions process to day places. For Year 7 entry, there are 177 day places overall, which when combined with the 3 boarding places, creates a year group overall size of 180.

In light of our continuing oversubscription, it is proposed that if the boarding provision closes, the 3 boarding places are redesignated as day places. This means the overall size of the year group will remain unchanged at 180 but there will be 3 more days places available to allocate.

When would the boarding provision close?

It is proposed that boarding would cease operating from the 2026-27 academic year.

This timing of the proposed change also takes into account the stage current boarding pupils are in in their educational studies to minimise impact on educational progress.

When are we consulting?

The consultation will run from 29 June – 20 July 2026.

How to return your comments

Responses and further questions may be submitted to consultation@liverpoolcollege.org.uk or to the College address: Consultation, c/o Liverpool College, Queens Drive, Liverpool L18 8BG.

All comments must be received by 20 July 2026.