



Appleford School

A unique path to success

We have a whole school approach to safeguarding, which is the golden thread that runs throughout every aspect of the school. All our school policies support our approach to safeguarding (child protection). Our fundamental priority is our children and their wellbeing; this is first and foremost.

Statement of Purpose

Appleford School was established in 1988 by Dr Peter Gardner (psychologist and psychotherapist) and Gerald Trump who founded the first school for dyslexic children in the UK.

Appleford's aim from its inception has been, and still is, to provide a high quality education for children in Year 3 to Year 11 with Dyslexia and associated learning difficulties to include Dyscalculia, Dyspraxia, ASD and ADHD. To this end we only accept children with an appropriate assessment from an Educational Psychologist and/or an Education, Health and Care Plan. The school also welcomes applications from children of families in The Services and placements by Local Authorities.

It is our commitment to prepare our pupils for successful adult lives and as such, Appleford encourages a broad and holistic concept of education and aims to provide small classes, individualised and differentiated teaching delivered by well-qualified and experienced teaching and learning support staff. A broad and balanced curriculum is followed, allowing pupils to progress onto qualification in a range of subjects. The school's Learning Support department, including Speech and Language Therapists and Occupational Therapists, provide a high level of individual and group support to help all pupils access the curriculum. We offer a high level of pastoral support, experienced and caring Houseparents in homely and structured boarding houses designed to develop personal organisation and life skills, an extensive sport and leisure activities programme and a strong professional support team.

We want our children to start to realise their full potential and to develop the self-respect, self-reliance and self-discipline which they are so desperately seeking and need. It is, therefore, important that Appleford is a safe and secure environment, which we ensure with a very proactive approach towards Safeguarding Children and Child Protection. Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

The school has a Christian character and close links with its local church. Nevertheless, we welcome applications from all families, regardless of disability, religion, race and ethnicity.

This Statement of Purpose is reviewed and updated annually, and is modified as necessary in order to ensure that it reasonably reflects the actual current, academic, boarding and care practice at Appleford School.

Policy agreed: September 2025

Policy published (including on website): September 2025

Next review: September 2026

Signed:

Dr Peter Gardner
Proprietor and Managing Director

Mr David King
Headmaster and Non-Executive Director

Appleford School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. It is our aim that all pupils fulfil their potential.