

## Boarding Schools

Evangelos Panagiotis Kaltsas\*, Anastasia Gkaintartzi

Department of Primary Education University of Thessaly, Greece

*\*Corresponding Author: Evangelos Panagiotis Kaltsas, Department of Primary Education University of Thessaly, Greece*

### ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** A boarding school is an institution where children live within premises while being given formal instruction.

**Aim:** In the current review study, the way boarding schools operate is shown, alongside their pros and cons.

**Methodology:** The study's material consisted of articles related to the topic, found in Greek and International kai databases, the Google Scholar, and the Hellenic Academic Libraries Association (HEAL-Link).

**Results:** In boarding schools, children study and live during the school year with their fellow students and possibly teachers or administrators. In some societies and cultures, boarding schools are the most elite educational option, whereas in other contexts, they serve as places to segregate children deemed a problem to their parents or wider society.

**Results:** Parents must first and foremost be absolutely certain that their children will be helped in such a school, as many of them will inevitably face some difficulties adapting in such an environment.

**Keywords:** Education, students, boarding schools, pros, cons

### INTRODUCTION

There are many different kinds of schools around the world, and obviously differ a lot depending on the different cultures and the political and social institutions of their countries. They may provide specific kinds of education and knowledge, have different criteria for entering, be public or private, or have different structures and ways of function. (Bass, 2014)

One of the most special kinds of schools that exist are boarding schools, in which kids must spend the entirety of the term. They provide the kids with rooms and food, and offer many kinds of education. Boarding schools were first created in Europe in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> centuries, and at first were meant for boys only or girls only. Boarding schools at the time were meant to give the kids either excessive knowledge on one specific lesson, like grammar or literature, or religious teachings. (Martin et al, 2014)

They were either public or private and could be entirely free, or demand entrance fees. Just like all the schools of that era, they were rather strict and many either benefitted or suffered from the laws of their countries, depending on their specialties or themes. (Gaztambide - Fernández, 2009)

As time went on, they were appearing in more areas across the world and became more varied and began to engage with other subjects. However, their purpose could also be much viler than just providing extended knowledge to kids. (Smith, 2004)

On many cases, kids of people from ethnic minorities or colonies were forced to attend boarding schools that taught them how to behave and act according to the culture of the country they live in or under, in order to eliminate their culture. This happened in England during colonial times and the U.S. during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and in many other countries. Nowadays boarding schools have more variety in their themes and in many cases can be for both boys and girls. (Child, 2018)

**The purpose** of this study is to present the contribution of boarding schools in education from primary school, all the way to university, alongside their pros and cons.

The **study** material consists of a **review** of Greek and international bibliography, and focuses on different views concerning education provided by boarding schools. The study's material consisted of articles related to the topic found in Greek and international databases such as Google Scholar, the Hellenic Academic

## Boarding Schools

Libraries Association (HEAL-Link), and with the use of keywords such as education, students, boarding schools, pros and cons. The exclusion criteria for the articles was the language, except for Greek and English. Mostly, only articles and studies accessible to authors were used.

### TALKING ABOUT BOARDING SCHOOLS TODAY

Today boarding schools offer pupils an outstanding education, helping them to develop their skills and progress to university. Commonly viewed as very effective and innovative types of schools and as such exist in a multitude of countries such as China, Switzerland, the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, India, Canada, Hungary, Zimbabwe, and many more. However, all boarding schools across the world have to meet strict government standards on the quality of their teaching, facilities and student care. (Aron and Loprest, 2012)

In addition, nowadays there are much more and varied types of boarding schools. Some of these types are:

- College preparatory schools, which prepare kids for their time in college. (Cummings, 2014)
- Sports schools, which focus on sports and are mostly, intended for people with sports careers in mind. (Naul & Hardma, 2002).
- Performing arts schools, which focus on music, dance, drama and other creative pursuits. (Bamford & Wimmer, 2012)
- Therapeutic schools meant for kids with learning difficulties, or that have suffered from abuse, or that that have physical or mental health struggles. (Matter, 2006)
- Junior schools meant for kindergarten through 8th grade (or some in between grades) kids and have appropriate activities and schedules. (Snyder & Hoffman, 2001)
- Military schools, which have military like discipline and structure and are especially good for those who want to enter a military college or have a military career. (Shane et al, 2008)

Religious schools focus into religious teachings and practices. (Pell, 2007)

In modern times, boarding schools mostly focus on expanding the characters and personalities of the kids. The main priority is not just providing them with extended knowledge, but helping them develop complete independent and functioning personalities. However, that also depends a lot on the themes of each school; for

example, military schools will be much stricter than performing arts schools. (Asbury and Woodson, 2012)

The big question however is whether sending kids to boarding schools is worth it or not. Like every other type of school, boarding schools have pros and cons that must be taken into account. (Morgan, 2007)

Some of the most important pros and cons of boarding schools are the following: (Bass, 2014)

#### Pros

- In boarding schools, students enter a learning community, which can be very effective in learning and communicating, especially with their unique environments.
- Independence from parents and routine can help the kids develop self-reliance between each other.
- Older students and teachers in boarding schools are supportive of younger students.
- Boarding schools for the most part really maintain and respect their traditions.
- The extra time of the kids allows for more programs that are complete.
- A number of boarding schools are ahead of their time when it comes to innovative teaching environments and techniques.

#### Cons

- Boarding schools most of the time are more expensive than ordinary schools.
- Living without their parents is the biggest challenge the kids will face in such a school.
- Boarding schools are not immune to bullying, as many already know.
- Parents must be wary of Boarding School Syndrome. It occurs to too young or not mature enough kids.

The big question is whether boarding schools are good or not. Boarding school establishment involves control of behavior regarding several aspects of life including what is appropriate and/or acceptable which adolescents would consider as intrusive. The aspect of boarding school life with its round the clock habitation of students with each other in the same environment, involved in studying, sleeping, and socializing can lead to pressures and stress in boarding school life. (Cookson et al, 2009) Studies show that about 90% of boarding school students acknowledge that living in a total institution like boarding school has a significant impact and changed their perception and

## Boarding Schools

interaction with social relationships. (Little et al, 2005)

Boarding school can be just as good as any other type of school, but of course, they are not for everyone. Parents must first be certain that their kids will be helped in such an environment, as many kids will inevitably face some difficulties adapting into such an environment. The kids that can adapt into such an environment and can face the difficulties it may present will certainly gain a lot of personal growth and knowledge, and besides they are schools so they are not anything distant that should be worrying to anyone. (Behagel, De Chaisemartin & Gurgand, 2017)

### BOARDING SCHOOLS IN GREECE TODAY

Greece is also a country that has a variety of boarding schools. There are just as many public boarding schools as there are private. On the one hand, public boarding schools include military schools of every army specialty that is infantry, navy and air force, higher education schools, the well-known army schools of non-commissioned officers of the army, navy and air force, and university education, the so-called schools of Army officers, Navy officers and Air force officers. (L. 3374/2005)

These schools aim to provide the Greek society and community with Leaders - Officers which will have the characteristics of a Leader, therefore a man of special character and personality, a Soldier, meaning a man of natural and mental strength, familiar with the Military Art and Science, and a Scientist, both in military matters and sectors of multiple scientific fields, that will provide him with functional tools useful for his mission. (se.army.gr/odigos\_proptyhiakon\_spydon\_2020-21)

The years of training in these schools are nothing more than the adaption of their students in a new environment that is the first and most important part of their training. (<https://www.hellenicnavy.gr/el/enimerosi/stadiodromia-sto-pn/kariera-ypaksiomatikoy.html>)

The aim of the basic training provided in these schools is the transition from the citizen mentality to the spirit and mentality of the uniformed, and especially the future executives of the Greek Army. (<https://ssas.army.gr/content/stratitiki-ekpaideysi>)

This part has the entry to the military life without many difficulties, the development of military spirit and the preparation for their further *σταδιοδρομία* in the school and in continuation as executives of the Greek Army, as its main purpose. (<https://www.haf.gr/career/academies/haf-academy/training/military-training/>)

All the trainees are split in squads and chambers, while there are separate chambers for men and women. In each squad, the leader is an upper-class senior who is responsible for the correct training, performance, appearance and behavior of his squad's members. The trainee's day begins with the morning awakening, approximately at 6:00 in the morning, and ends at bedtime, approximately at 23:00. During the day calls named invitations are made, in which all the trainees are gathered in squads. Participation in these calls is mandatory and necessary because other than the counting, it includes an inspection on movements, a complaint check from the higher-ups and a report sent to the administration. (<https://sites.google.com/site/stratitotikes/home/basike-ekpaideuse>)

The category these schools belong to also includes police schools, fire schools, port police schools and merchant navy schools. That is merchant schools and engineer schools as well. Their training philosophy is corresponding with that of the previously mentioned military schools. ([http://www.astynomia.gr/index.php?option=ozo\\_content&perform=view&id=61](http://www.astynomia.gr/index.php?option=ozo_content&perform=view&id=61))

Despite all this, many students give up on these schools every year because they cannot stand this education style, even though a permanent job and salary are guaranteed to them after they graduate.

On the other hand, private boarding schools usually consist of annexes of foreign private schools, such as private schools in the United States, and operate in accordance with both the operation rules of the private school they are an annex of, and the operation rules that Greek public schools follow. (<https://Anatolia.Edu.gr/el/>)

The studies schedule that these schools follow is the one set by the Greek Ministry of Education, but at the same time, it offers lessons and activities that surpass those that the Greek State demands. (N. 4713/2020) The structure of their study schedules is made so that their students can acquire specific traits thanks to specific teaching and education methods. Their schedule's philosophy focuses on the understanding, sensitivity and cooperation understanding in matters related to the international community compared with the Greek community. In addition, life in these schools is followed by numerous extracurricular activities, which make up an important part of the educational experience. (<https://www.minedu.gov.gr/idiwtikh-ekpaideysh/idiwtika-sxoleia>)

### CONCLUSION

In the end, boarding schools are a very special kind of school. They offer a unique environment and have a long history of evolvement. With

## Boarding Schools

distinct sets of pros and cons and many types, they can offer a lot to kids, if the kids can live in the environment they offer. (Woodson, 2012)

The students make friends, expand their horizons and through this process of commutation and co-existence with others understand themselves and others better. The most important aspect of living inside boarding schools is that kids learn to be comfortable being around other kids coming from different areas, from a very young age, and as have different cultural a mindset and different habits. They learn how to accept diversity, cooperate and work as a team. Ultimately, they are certainly a creative set of schools that are worth trying out.

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