



## Education Guardians

In cases where both parents of a College pupil reside outside the mainland UK, they must appoint an education guardian to care for their child while the child is in the UK but not in the College's care. Education guardians of College pupils are appointed solely by their parents, not by the College. The College can accept no responsibility for any detriment caused by the failings of an education guardian or guardianship agency.

Whilst the College is not directly involved in the appointment of education guardians, it does regard their careful selection as an important safeguarding concern. To this end, the College requires that parents arrange for the appointment of an education guardian through a professional agency that has **Gold Standard Accreditation with the Association for the Education & Guardianship of International Students (AEGIS)**. A list of such agencies can be found at this [link](#).

The College accepts that there will be cases in which parents wish to appoint a close family member as their child's education guardian, rather than use a professional agency. In these circumstances **parents must ensure that the person nominated is fully able to fulfil the role of an education guardian**. This means being able to:

- speak English, so as to ensure effective communication with the College;
- arrange transport for the pupil to and from the College, and suitable overnight accommodation if necessary, at the beginning and end of term, during half-term exeat, and at other periods when the pupil is in the UK but not in the College's care (e.g. if they are temporarily excluded, ill, etc);
- travel from their usual place of residence to the College in no more than 90 minutes; and
- consent to emergency medical treatment for the pupil in the event that a parent cannot be contacted.

Given the responsibilities involved, those appointed as education guardians must be **over 25 years of age**.

Guardianship can sometimes turn into **private fostering**. Private fostering is an arrangement by a child's parents for their child (under 16 years or 18 years if disabled) to be cared for by another adult who is not closely related and is not a legal guardian with parental responsibility for 28 days or more. It is not private fostering if the carer is a close relative to the child such as grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt.

The Law requires parents, carers, educational guardians and homestays to report private fostering arrangements to the local authority independently. The College will also report such arrangements to the local authority if it becomes aware of them, in line with its safeguarding obligations to pupils. The College will notify the local authority of the circumstances, via First Response. Once notified, the local authority will check that the arrangement is suitable and safe for the child.

As such, it is of the utmost importance that, where a pupil is to stay with either the educational guardian or anyone else to whom the pupil is not closely related for any



period of 28 days or more, **the parents immediately inform the College of this** and provide the name of the foster carer and the address at which the pupil will be residing.

AEGIS Gold Standard Accredited guardians are bound by strict rules and procedures relating to private fostering and therefore will understand what is required of them should their support of a pupil turn into a private fostering arrangement.

Pupils who require an education guardian will only be able to take up their place at the College on condition that their parents have informed the College of the education guardian's name and contact details **prior to the pupil's first scheduled day of attendance.**

Parents must also inform the College by contacting as **a matter of urgency** if their child's education guardian changes. Please do this by contacting your child's Housemaster or Housemistress in the first instance who will provide you with the relevant paperwork to complete.