



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) or certified Guardian under the BSA Certified Guardian Scheme**. A list of such agencies for AEGIS can be found at this [link](#) & the list of BSA certified guardians can be found [here](#).

The College will request the appropriate **letter of undertaking** from the AEGIS registered agency who will have undertaken the relevant safeguarding checks.

The College accepts that there will be cases in which parents wish to appoint a close family member¹ as their child's education guardian, rather than use a professional agency. In these circumstances the College will:

- Carry out an ID check via video call
- Also during that call request to see on camera the living quarters of the pupil
- Expect guardians to fill out the exeat/holiday forms
- Complete a [letter of undertaking](#)
- Require written consent from the parent for the nominated guardian to look after their child

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 exeats, 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);
- Provide care for a child in a happy, secure home as would a reasonable parent;
- travel from their usual place of residence to the College in no more than 2 hours;
- host a sick child in their care
- consent to emergency medical treatment for the pupil in the event that a parent cannot be contacted

¹ The close family member must be a child's grandparent, brother, sister, step-parent, uncle (the brother or half-brother of the child's parent, aunt (the sister or half-sister of the child's parent) but must not be the child's parent.



- Be a British national or hold settled status in the U.K.
- Not have any criminal convictions and ensure no one in the home the child will be staying in has any criminal convictions
- Ensure the home that the child will be staying in is a private address and not used for commercial purposes

Employees of Clifton College including its subsidiaries cannot act as guardians for Clifton College pupils nor can they make recommendations.

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

Any concerns from the College about a guardian or a host family working for a guardian agency will be raised with the parents.

The College will make reasonable endeavours on an annual basis to check and renew the details of every nominated guardian. After each holiday pupils who stayed with a host family/guardian in the UK will be asked to complete a google form about their stay so that any pastoral or safeguarding concerns if raised can be investigated.

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 a close relative to the child¹ and is not a legal guardian with parental responsibility for 28 consecutive days or more. It is not private fostering if the carer is a close relative to the child.

The Law requires parents, carers, education 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 consecutive 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 and BSA 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 scheduled 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 who will work with the relevant departments to facilitate this change. Any change will require the AEGIS/BSA registered guardian agency or close family member to go through the registration process again.

Parents and Guardians are responsible for the collection and transport of boarders (including arrangements for getting the child to and from the airport for international travel) at the start and end of the school term and when there is any temporary absence from school.

Guardians are always very welcome to attend College events and arrange meetings as and when required.