



## Education Guardians

**07/05/2025 Important note: The Home Office is currently reviewing child student visas and guardianship rules. The updated policy will be circulated in the coming weeks once these changes are finalised.**

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 accepts that there will be cases in which parents wish to appoint a close family member<sup>1</sup> 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);
- 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; and
- consent to emergency medical treatment for the pupil in the event that a parent cannot be contacted.

Employees of Clifton College including its subsidiaries cannot act as guardians for Clifton College pupils.

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

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<sup>1</sup> 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.



Clifton College will speak with every pupil's guardian on appointment to confirm that they are clear about their role and responsibilities. Any concerns from the College will be raised with the parents. In addition to this the Deputy Head Pastoral (Upper & Prep) will contact 20% of the Guardians for international pupils and undertake the same checks before the Michaelmas Half term. After each exeat pupils who stayed with a host family/guardian will complete a google form about their stay so that any pastoral or safeguarding concerns 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 child<sup>1</sup> 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.

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 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.

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.