



EDUCATIONAL GUARDIANSHIP POLICY

For the purpose of this policy, 'the School' refers to The Stamford School as a whole.

Introduction

Stamford welcomes students from all over the world. Our Pastoral teams and boarding houses are structured in a way that ensures all international pupils integrate effectively into the wider School community. Many of our international students make both life-long friends and memories during their time at Stamford.

All international students are required to have an educational guardian whilst they are studying at Stamford. This is to ensure that an international student has another means of support, outside of school, who they can turn to for assistance whilst they are in the UK. The guardian will also provide suitable accommodation for the child on occasions where the child cannot be accommodated on campus.

Purpose of Policy

To provide a clear explanation of the School's expectations of Guardianship and what it entails to both parents of international students and appointed educational guardians.

Guardian Criteria

The appointed guardian may be a nominated family member or close friend of the family. Alternatively, parents may choose to employ a professional, AEGIS-accredited guardianship agency.

The appointed guardian must have a permanent place of residence in the UK and ideally should reside no more than two hours travelling time from Stamford so that they can easily reach the School if required.

The appointed guardian must have a sufficient level of written and spoken English to ensure clear communication with the School.

Guardian Expectations & Responsibilities

The appointed guardian will be a point of contact for the School at all times. They must be available to contact 24/7 in case of an emergency.

During periods when the School cannot accommodate the student, the appointed guardian must provide safe and suitable accommodation for the student, as well as appropriate supervision and care. This includes periods of long-term illness and at any point when disciplinary proceedings may require the student's temporary removal from campus. The School does not consider unsupervised stays in a hotel, bed and breakfast, holiday home or university halls to be an acceptable level of accommodation or care, and therefore accommodation arrangements in any of these settings are not permitted. The School reserves the right to determine the suitability of arrangements for students. Should arrangements prove unacceptable, the School will advise both parents and the appointed guardian and give reasonable opportunity for the arrangements to be altered.

The appointed guardian (or, where possible, parents) must liaise with the School regarding accommodation and travel arrangements during school holidays.

The appointed guardian must provide accurate contact information, including a contact number (telephone / mobile), email address and full address. The appointed guardian must inform the School immediately if any of this information changes.

The appointed guardian must inform the School if they are going to be leaving the UK. Full contact details for a responsible adult in the UK, who will be acting as guardian in their absence, must be provided. The temporary guardian must be fully authorised by parents to act on their behalf.

The appointed guardian will be considered responsible for the student whenever the student is not staying within boarding. They will need to inform the School of any and all residences / host families / addresses in which the student will be staying.

The appointed guardian is expected to attend Parents' Evenings and other similar school events as the parents' representative wherever necessary. They are encouraged to maintain regular contact with the student, and are warmly welcomed to visit the School by appointment should they wish.

The appointed guardian must ensure that the student's legal documents such as passports are kept up to date, and to assist in the renewal of such items when necessary.

The appointed guardian should be familiar with the School's rules, regulations and policies. They should support the School's values and ethos.

The appointed guardian should notify the School if they are ceasing to be the student's guardian and a new guardian is being appointed. This should be communicated in writing and should provide all necessary information in order to facilitate continuous care.

Private Foster Care Arrangements

Private fostering is any arrangement whereby a child under the age of 16 (or 18 if the child has a disability) is placed for 28 days or more in the care of someone who is not the child's parent(s) or a 'connected person'. A connected person is defined as a 'relative, friend or

other person connected with a child'. The School must notify the local authority of any private foster care arrangements, and will do so on a case by case basis.

Appointing an Educational Guardian

The School will send the Guardianship Policy in a student's offer pack and expect parent(s) to familiarise themselves with this and begin the process of appointing an educational guardian.

Guardianship Agreement

Upon acceptance, the School will send a Guardianship Agreement for both the appointed guardian and parent(s) to sign. The appointed guardian must complete and sign the School's Guardianship Agreement to confirm that they have read the Guardianship Policy and agree to its terms. Likewise, the parents of an international student must also complete and sign the same agreement to confirm their authorisation of the appointment.

Additional information about Educational Guardianship can be found via the Association for the Education and Guardianship of International Students (AEGIS) website <https://aegisuk.net/>. AEGIS is the only independent body in the UK that puts guardianship organisations through a rigorous inspection process. Stamford is proud to be an AEGIS member school and encourages both parents of international pupils, and prospective and appointed guardians alike, to familiarise themselves with their work to promote the welfare of international students.

Author/Reviewer	Phil Gilchrist (Head of Admissions) / Katie Dexter (Deputy Head Pastoral)	Date of Last Review	Summer 2024
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