Association for The Education and Guardianship of International Students

GUIDELINES FOR GUARDIANS

Eligibility

- A guardian must be over the age of 25 years
- A guardian must have a permanent or semi-permanent place of residence in the United Kingdom independent of any educational institution.
- A guardian must agree to the necessary searches required under current legislation to be carried out on all the adults (over 18 years) residing permanently in their household.
- The guardian should be a person who is not involved in travelling overseas other than for holidays.

The responsibilities of a guardian*

In accordance with any contract you may have with a Guardianship Organisation, school or overseas parent to:

1. Provide support and guidance on welfare and educational matters as appropriate to the age of the international student.
2. Be able to be contacted at all times and be ready to deal with immediate problems or emergencies, including for example, the removal of an international student from school or for illness and hospital admissions.
3. Notify the school of any change of address or immediate contact information if you are out of contact for a short period of time. Ideally this second contact should be appointed by the guardian or parents and known to both.
4. Be available and willing to receive the international student into their home several times a term as agreed on appointment.
5. Be at home when the international student is there and provide suitable living and studying accommodation in accordance with the Children Act (1989) and other United Kingdom legislation.
6. Collect from and return the international student to the school or college in accordance with the timetable at half terms and exeat weekends and as agreed.
7. Not accept paying guests into, or be running a bed and breakfast, within your own household whilst providing guardianship services in your home for an international student under the age of 16 years.

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8. Exercise the same caution as a responsible parent in allowing an international student to stay somewhere other than in their own home. If it is a regular or long term arrangement the school should be notified and the host family (if applicable) should agree to having the appropriate searches conducted on them.
9. Never allow an international student to reside where there is no means of contact by the guardian or the parents except in special circumstances, for instance, when on an expedition with parental consent.
10. Complete a guardian registration form supplied by the school or Guardianship Organisation.
11. Allow a representative of the school or Guardianship Organisation to inspect the suitability of the accommodation once a year.
12. Attend any induction or other training offered by the school or Guardianship Organisation.
13. Be very clear about the areas of responsibility you have as a guardian. Check this with the school or Guardianship Organisation. It should be included in your contract/agreement with the overseas parent, Guardianship Organisation or school.

Note:

* legal Status of Guardians

The term Guardian is one of convenience. The person appointed is better described as the Educational Guardian. The legal relationship under the Children Act (1989) is one of "delegated parental responsibility". In practical terms the Educational Guardian carries the day to day responsibility, but the parents have only delegated tasks to the Educational Guardian, they have not surrendered, transferred or shed the responsibility of parents.