



Lancaster Royal Grammar School

Educational Guardianship Policy and Agreement

Introduction

All international boarders require Educational Guardians as a condition of being able to board at Lancaster Royal Grammar School. Our pastoral system is very strong and it is important that effective arrangements are made with regard to educational guardians. Guardianship provide additional means of support for an international student while they are in the UK. It allows them to have another adult outside School who they can turn to for assistance and advice, and who will provide accommodation when the School is closed and it is impractical to travel home.

The Boarding Schools Association explains their role like this:

“For many from abroad, their guardian is the parents’ representative in this country, essential in times of crisis or need for support and advice, available not only to the pupil but also to the school as a proxy for the parents who cannot be contacted for whatever reason. For others, their guardian is the person with whom they stay during school holidays and leave weekends when it is not practicable to return home. The educational guardian has a clear pupil welfare role, bridging between parents, pupil and school.”

An Educational Guardian is not a child’s legal guardian in the sense of ‘parent or guardian’.

Guardian requirements

The Educational Guardian should be a responsible adult who is resident in the UK. As such they should be old and mature enough to provide a caring home environment for the boarder when required. Adult siblings who are under the age of 25 or are still in full-time education themselves are unlikely to be appropriate. The Educational Guardian should be English speaking and be able to provide a point of contact for the school at all times.

Educational Guardians may be family members or friends. Alternatively parents may pay an Educational Guardian Organisation to provide this service. Where this is the case, we strongly recommend that parents only use a professional agency recognised by AEGIS (the Association for the Education and Guardianship of International Students – see contact details in Annex B).

The School may be able to provide details of agencies or individuals who have acted as guardians to our pupils in the past, but we do not recommend any specific agency or individual.

Parents are expected to ensure that the Educational Guardian for their son/daughter is able to meet the expectations stated in this document. This is a very important role and not one to be entered into lightly. Some of the expectations are detailed below.

Guardian responsibilities

The Educational Guardian must provide safe and suitable accommodation and appropriate care and supervision for the pupil during periods when they cannot be accommodated at School, including periods of extended sickness and disciplinary measures.

Responsibilities for travel arrangements are set out in the boarding contract but detailed, below, for clarity.

The school will be responsible for the child from when he/she arrives at school at the end of a holiday until they depart from school at the beginning of a holiday unless the child is away on an exeat in which case the parents are responsible for the child once he/she has left the school at the beginning of an exeat until he/she returns at the end of the exeat.

Parents will be responsible for the child once he/she has left the school at the beginning of a holiday until he/she returns at the end of a holiday.

The Educational Guardian bears responsibility for the child while they are in their care.

Parents must inform the Educational Guardian of the travel arrangements for the child prior to the child arriving and departing.

Parents must inform the school of the contact details for the Educational Guardian. The school will contact the guardian to ensure they are clear about their responsibilities. In the event of a change of Guardian, parents must communicate this promptly to the School in writing in order to facilitate continuous care.

Parents should discuss this role with the Educational Guardian and pass them a copy of these expectations.

Educational Guardians are warmly welcomed to visit the School by appointment.

Annex A: Private fostering

Private fostering is when a child's parent or guardian arranges for them to be cared for and live with someone else, who is not a close relative. It applies where:

- The child is under 16, or if disabled is under 18
- The arrangement will be for 28 days or more or
- The arrangement is for less than 28 days but is one of a series of days that all together add up to 28 days
- The person who will look after them is not a close relative of the child (for example is not a brother, aunt or grandparent)

Parents must tell children's social care if your child is going to be cared for by a private foster carer. enquiries@lancashire.gov.uk. Parents must also tell the School if this is the case.

Annex B: AEGIS: The Association for the Education and Guardianship of International Students

AEGIS is a national organisation which monitors and accredits guardianship providers in the UK and works to promote the welfare of international students. There is no legal requirement that a guardianship organisation has to be AEGIS accredited but it is considered best practice. Please see their website for further details: www.aegisuk.net

Details of specific safeguarding requirements of any Educational Guardian appointed can also be found at: www.aegisuk.net

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