

SEVENOAKS SCHOOL

Guardianship of pupils living abroad



The Governors of the School require that every pupil whose parents are resident abroad has a suitable educational guardian living in this country. Where parents find it difficult to nominate a relative or good acquaintance for this purpose we suggest they refer to the AEGIS website at www.aegisuk.net as a starting point. In a recent questionnaire, pupils reported good experiences with Bright World. We have also met a Bright World director and a consultant with Carfax Educational Guardians, both of whom appear to offer a good service.

The Role of an Educational Guardian

An educational guardian of a pupil from abroad is expected to take a personal interest in the progress and welfare of the young person. The degree of this must, of course, be a matter for discussion between, and approval by, both the pupil's parents and the educational guardian. We are always happy for educational guardians to attend school functions such as open days and parents' evenings when parents cannot be present. Boarding houses and their staff will always welcome educational guardians as they would parents, both for particular occasions or as casual visitors. Copies of grades and reports can be sent to educational guardians (with the permission of the parents).

Sometimes a pupil finds himself or herself needing advice and guidance on academic or personal matters from someone representing their family; in this kind of situation an educational guardian can be very helpful. There may, infrequently, be instances when a boy or girl is unwell or involved in an accident when it is desirable to have an educational guardian close at hand for consultation and support, or to accommodate a boarder with an infectious illness. Very rarely we may need to discuss disciplinary matters at first hand with someone representing a pupil's parents.

In the unlikely event of planes being grounded (e.g. due to bad weather) and students needing to leave the boarding house (e.g. at the end of term or in the case of a flu pandemic) a UK based educational guardian must be available to collect students.

Students with UKBA Tier 4 visas

Parents should also be aware that for any student studying on a tier 4 visa, the UKBA require that a suitable educational guardian is appointed, and that Sevenoaks School, (as the sponsoring authority), keep records of the student's whereabouts during half terms and holidays.

Specific Requirements and Responsibilities

An educational guardian should:

- Be at least 25 years old and live within reasonable travelling distance from Sevenoaks.
- Care for the pupil in an emergency, including in the event of infectious illness or if the school is closed due to a pandemic.
- Be prepared to take temporary care when a pupil has been suspended for a serious breach of the school rules.
- Look after pupils on occasions at weekend leaves, or when flights home are after the end of term.
- Always advise the school and the parents if they plan to go away during term time.

Experience shows that these responsibilities can be rewarding and that being an educational guardian makes a significant contribution to ensuring that boarding is a happy and enjoyable experience for young people coming from overseas. Educational guardians will find that they are looking after someone who is sensible, intelligent and hardworking and who will repay the interest and kindness shown to them.

Helen Tebay
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Last Updated May 2013