

CHRIST'S HOSPITAL

EDUCATIONAL GUARDIANSHIP POLICY

It is a condition of entry to Christ's Hospital ('the School') that parents based overseas appoint a UK-based educational guardian to support their son or daughter at the School.

Where geographical distance and possibly other circumstances, such as parental work commitments, or available means of robust communication, or time zone, or language differences, make immediate contact between the School and parent less reliable, we ask parents to choose an educational guardian who is prepared to undertake responsibilities of a wide-ranging nature.

Definition

An educational guardian is distinctly different from a legal guardian. The duty of the educational guardian is to act on behalf of the parent when the parent cannot be present and where the parent has agreed to delegate specific parental roles and responsibilities. The role of the educational guardian is to support the family and the School in the absence of the parent, and the Educational Guardian Agreement can be tailored to specific parental circumstances. Hereafter in this policy 'guardian' shall refer to the educational guardian as outlined above. 'Parent' shall be used to refer the adult with legal responsibility for the child.

Appointment

The School requires that the educational guardian:

- is an adult who is not a student;
- is over the age of 25;
- is fluent in the English language;
- has a permanent place of residence in the UK;
- is not regularly involved in travel overseas;
- can be easily contacted; and
- lives no more than 90 minutes away from Christ's Hospital.

If the appointed guardian is to be out of the country during the School year for a period of any significance, a suitable substitute must be appointed (with School and parental agreement) to cover the period of the primary guardian's absence.

A change of guardian must be communicated promptly to the School via the Parent Portal, providing all necessary guardian contact details in order to facilitate continuous care.

In many cases, the appointed guardian will be a close relative or close family friend, but guardians can also be sourced from guardianship supply organisations. As an unregulated industry, there is significant variance in the standards of safeguarding and data protection arrangements put in place by guardianship operators. Responsibility for selection of a suitable guardian lies fully with a parent. However, as members of 'AEGIS' the School is satisfied that a guardianship operator that is also an AEGIS member should have suitable arrangements in place. This statement is not made as a recommendation, but is instead made to assist a parent in making a more informed appointment of a guardian.

Any remuneration paid to a guardian is a private matter between the parent and the guardian.

When choosing a guardian, parents may wish to consider the following matters: their willingness and ability to provide emotional and practical support for the pupil; their ability to handle and exchange sensitive and urgent information; their willingness and ability to provide accommodation when the School is closed or international travel is obstructed; their willingness and ability to provide accommodation when the pupil has a contagious illness or other mental or physical health matter that means they are best cared for away from School; and their willingness and ability to organise safe travel arrangements.

Support

Supportive, caring guardians, in regular contact with a pupil, make a valuable contribution towards the development of that child's successful school career. Regular contact will also mean that, if it becomes necessary to reside with a guardian, this will feel less unnerving to the child.

With parental agreement, guardians are strongly encouraged to become familiar with Christ's Hospital and the child's boarding house team and, where practicable, to visit the School.

Guardians are encouraged to be in regular contact with the relevant houseparent.

With parental agreement, guardians are encouraged to attend parents' evenings and other School functions throughout the School year.

Information

The School will expect to hold a copy of the Educational Guardian Agreement signed between parents and guardians on file for reference purposes and must be informed in writing of any subsequent changes made to that agreement via the Parent Portal.

A guardian may become the primary point of contact for the School, where there is no immediate access to the parent or the urgency of a situation requires it.

The School must at all times have accurate contact information for the guardian (including telephone/mobile, email and full postal address contact details). It is the responsibility of the parent to provide the School with accurate contact information for the guardian. Parents should be aware that the School will share pupil contact information with the guardian (including telephone/mobile, email and full postal address contact details) if this information is requested by the guardian.

A guardian should inform parents of any School concerns at the earliest opportunity.

A guardian may be required and should be prepared to convey/translate personal and/or possibly distressing information to/for the parent about their child.

A guardian may receive copies of School reports if the parent wishes/agrees.

Accommodation

A guardian must provide safe and suitable accommodation and appropriate care and supervision for a pupil during periods when they cannot be accommodated at the School. Regardless of a child's age, we do not consider unsupervised stays in hotels, Airbnb, bed and breakfast premises, or university halls of residence to provide an adequate level of accommodation or care.

Guardians are expected to provide accommodation in the following instances:

- when the School is closed throughout each half term holiday and periods between the published term dates;
- if a pupil is unexpectedly unable to make the journey home due to unforeseen circumstances, such as illness, severe weather conditions or pandemic outbreak;
- if a pupil is required to be away from the School unexpectedly for any medical or disciplinary reason, such as having a contagious illness, having a mental health crisis, or suspension;
- if a pupil is required to be away from the School unexpectedly for any major incident reason, such as the closure of the School due to a contagious illness outbreak or the loss of critical boarding facilities (e.g. major fire); and
- when any travel arrangements involve early morning or late evening departures (within boarding house bedtimes).

It is not an expectation, as the School does not close, but parents may wish guardians to provide accommodation on Leave Weekends, to offer a child a break from the School environment. This arrangement must be clarified between the parent and guardian.

Safe travel arrangements

If the parent wishes an adult to accompany the pupils to/from an airport, the guardian must assume responsibility for undertaking this journey.

If pupils are more than an hour late returning from holidays, leave weekends or other absences, the School will contact the guardian directly.

When travel is organised by a parent, the guardian should be informed of the arrangements and of any alterations or delays to these plans. The organising party should also advise the School of pupil travel arrangements and travel alterations or delays.

The parent should inform the guardian of any independent travel arrangements made by the pupil during term time for example to attend open days and interviews.

If a pupil is to fly as an unaccompanied minor, the guardian must assume responsibility for meeting the flight and completing airline handover documentation.

Bank accounts

It is the responsibility of the parent to instruct the guardian if they would like a UK bank account to be opened for the pupil. The guardian must arrange an appointment at a bank of the parent's choosing and accompany the pupil to the appointment.

Requests for pupils to leave School to attend appointments must be submitted through the Parent Portal at least five days before the scheduled appointment. Pupils will not be allowed to attend appointments unless five days' notice is given. As such, it is our recommendation that bank appointments are organised prior to the pupil's arrival at Christ's Hospital.

SIM cards

It is the responsibility of the parent to instruct the guardian if they would like their child to have a UK SIM card.

The guardian can purchase a SIM card and post it to the pupil's School address. Alternatively, they can set up a contract with the chosen provider if the pupil has already set up a UK bank account.

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