

St George's School

	Guardianship <i>(Relevant to National Minimum Standard 22)</i>	
	Committee: Staff & Students	
	Co-ordinator : Mrs N Borland	
	Last Reviewed : Summer 2023	Next Review : Summer 2024
	Policy links to	

We do not appoint guardians.

The responsibility of appointing guardians lies solely with the parent.

For all students whose parents are abroad, a Guardian is their parents' representative in this country. They are essential in times of crisis or when there is the need for support and advice. They must be available not only to the pupil but also to the School at times when it is not possible to contact parents. The Guardian is the person with whom they stay during school holidays when it is not practicable to return home. The Guardian has a clear role in the student's welfare, bridging between parents, pupil and School.

Every pupil whose parents live or travel abroad, even for short periods, must have a mature and responsible (preferably over the age of 25) Guardian in the UK who lives within reasonable reach (ideally not more than an hour's journey) of the school. **This is a condition of entry as a boarder.**

The School does not, and will not, provide Guardians. It is the parents' responsibility to arrange this.

The School **strongly recommends that you appoint a reputable guardianship organisation** that is accredited by AEGIS (the Association of Educational Guardians for International Students).

Alternatively the Boarding Schools Association (www.boarding.org.uk) may provide information.

In addition, for families where there is a Guardian in place, but where that person is unable to perform certain duties, there are agencies that specialise in escorting boarding pupils to and from airports.

The name, address and telephone number of the Guardian must be provided by the parent before the child begins to board at St George's, or, in the case of a business trip or holiday, before departure. The relationship of the Guardian to the pupil must be made clear and the nominated Guardian must agree to act in this capacity for the duration of the boarders' time at St George's or for the duration of the trip.

In general terms a Guardian will be expected to do the following. It may also be that parents will make their own additional and individual arrangements with the Guardian:

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- Provide a 24 hour point of contact for parents, pupil and school (and host family if applicable)
- Act with delegated parental authority in the case of an emergency or crisis and in other matters agreed by parents.
- Provide pastoral and educational support.
- Provide transport to and from ports/airport of entry at the start and end of holiday periods, especially before or after the hours when boarding house staff are off duty.
- Take minors/young flyers (as defined by individual airlines) who are flying unaccompanied, to the airport and to collect them off return flights.
- Respond rapidly to the potential need to provide convalescence during and after illness. This could extend to providing a home, potentially for a prolonged period of weeks, for a child during enforced closure of boarding in the case of an epidemic or pandemic. This has become particularly important in the light of the current Coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic.
- Attend hospital to look after a boarder should they be admitted to hospital or should they have to stay in hospital for any significant length of time.
- Provide a home in the UK should the child be excluded from the school for disciplinary matters.
- Be a family contact for overseas pupils and a place to store clothes and other belongings during school holidays.
- Provide a home for short holiday periods when the school is closed – e.g. half terms and exeat weekends as detailed in the school calendar.
- Attend Parent Consultation Evenings at the request of parents and/or the school.
- To communicate with the student's Boarding House on a regular basis regarding their welfare.
- Uphold the ethos and aims of St George's School.

Guardians may contact the house staff on behalf of families of boarders and the school encourages all Guardians to make themselves known to the Boarding House staff and to visit the school. Parents who provide the school with Guardians are encouraged to invite their nominated Guardians to St George's.

Guardians must be provided with the school telephone numbers and contact points by parents. Guardians and parents are responsible for informing St George's of any change in address, telephone number or circumstances.

Parents are responsible for the welfare of children whilst they are resident with the appointed Guardians, although should a boarder's behaviour reflect badly on the School this could be a matter for disciplinary action.

The School are NOT responsible for the welfare of children whilst they are resident with the appointed Guardians, although should a boarder's behaviour reflect badly on the school this could be a matter for disciplinary action.

St George's will inform the parents if they have any concerns about the Guardian arrangements and will review individual Guardian provision if appropriate. Any concerns the school has over a Guardian's conduct will be acted upon immediately and referred to any relevant agencies.

St George's may contact Guardians directly should the need arise.

Parents should routinely review their guardianship arrangements to ensure that they are sufficiently robust to deal with those situations above.

Parents will be required annually to complete a **Parental Nomination of Guardianship Form** and the nominated guardian will be required to complete a **Guardianship Agreement Form**.