



Rossall

INSPIRING EXCELLENCE

Educational Guardianship Policy

SLT Lead: Deputy Head (Safeguarding & Boarding)	Date Reviewed: Lent 2024
Circulation: Edwel, SLT and Common Room	Next Review: Lent 2025
Requirement: Mandatory NMS 22	Revision/ New policy: Revision
Ratified by Council:	Date: March 2024

Rossall School

Educational Guardianship Policy

Parents of boarders at Rossall School (the school) who are resident outside of the UK must appoint a UK based educational guardian in whom they have confidence to promote and safeguard the best interests of their child for the duration of their time in boarding at the school. This is the case for all pupils, regardless of age.

The Guardianship jotform must be completed and verified with the appointed guardianship organisation before the child arrives to board at the school. Failure to do so will result in the school appointing **Bright World Guardianships** to act as emergency guardians until the parents have put an alternative arrangement in place.

Information on educational guardianship is outlined below.

1. Introduction

Rossall School has a strong boarding ethos and greatly values the diversity that both its UK and international pupils bring to the School's community. The school boarding staff provide the highest level of pastoral care during term time and provide vital support to international students, aiding integration and helping students get the most out of their time at Rossall School. During holiday periods and, at times that might be considered exceptional circumstances, an educational guardian provides extra support to students, ensuring their welfare in and out of school grounds. An educational guardian acts as the overseas parents' representative in the UK and is independent of the school. The types of services they can offer include; arranging homestay accommodation and airport transfers, attending parents' evenings and generally supporting the student during their stay in the UK.

It is important to recognise the distinction between 'Educational Guardians' and 'Legal Guardians'. Educational Guardian is not a legal term and should not be used interchangeably with the term 'Legal Guardian'. An educational guardian is someone who has been appointed to care for pupils whose parents are not based in the UK, when the pupil is not in school.

2. Why must an Education Guardian be appointed?

As per the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools 2022 ([National Minimum Standards for boarding schools](#)), Standard 22.1, the school must be satisfied that guardianship arrangements promote the welfare, physical and emotional wellbeing of its boarders. Any concerns about an educational guardianship arrangement will be acted upon immediately and referred to relevant agencies, as per NMS Standard 22. The school has the right to reject the arrangements planned for a child beyond the school's jurisdiction if deemed unacceptable or inappropriate by the school.

For the duration of their attendance at the School there must always be an educational guardian appointed who resides in the UK who can take responsibility for the child or young person and provide them with care and support when they are not in the care of the School.

These occasions may include:

- Half-term holidays
- Days at the start and end of term when a pupil's flights do not coincide with term dates
- If a pupil is ill or injured and needs to recuperate away from the School
- If the School requires a pupil to leave for disciplinary reasons or because the School determines it to be in the pupil's best interests
- Any other occasion when the pupil is released from the School

As the person with shared delegated parental responsibility, the role of the educational guardian complements the requirement of Houseparents to act in 'loco parentis'. Effective partnership between staff concerned with pastoral care, parents and educational guardians will safeguard the welfare of pupils with parents living outside the UK.

3. Educational Guardian Requirements

It is the parents' responsibility to appoint an educational guardian in whom they have confidence to provide for and safeguard the very best interests of their child. Parents must feel confident that the educational guardian will support their child in day-to-day circumstances, as well as in emergencies. If the child requires a visa under the Student Visa Route the intended carer in the UK must also meet the requirements set by the Home Office. Parents should also consider the support the guardian will provide to the child in the absence of the parents such as emotional, academic and, if applicable, religious guidance.

- **Parents must appoint an AEGIS accredited, gold standard guardian organisation - [AEGIS Gold Standard Guardianship Organisations](#)**
- An educational guardian can not be a member of the Rossall School staff.
- The guardianship arrangement must promote the welfare, and physical and emotional wellbeing of the child.
- The educational guardian must be of a minimum age of at least 25 and regardless of age, the guardian should not be a university student living in student accommodation themselves. This is to provide a safe and secure environment and the reason why a certain age is an appropriate limit e.g. emotional maturity.
- The educational guardian must have UK residency and live within a 2 hour radius of the School (by car or public transport).
- The educational guardian should be English speaking (it is not necessary for English to be a first language, but a minimum level of fluency is required to ensure communications can be fully understood).
- The educational guardian must be available 24 hours a day in case of emergency.

- Excellent communication is required of the educational guardian, keeping the school informed of all travel and accommodation arrangements, pupil's welfare, including pastoral, academic and medical care.
- Any homestay accommodation arranged by the educational guardian must be safe, appropriately supervised, and of a good standard. Unsupervised hotel, B & B, hostel, shared or rental accommodation is not considered acceptable.
- An educational guardian may attend parents' evenings (if required to by parents) and is welcome to visit the school by appointment in order to stay in contact with their student.
- An educational guardian is expected to uphold the ethos and values of the school at all times.
- An educational guardian is expected to respect and support the rights, religion and customs of the international student.
- An educational guardian must be prepared to support the renewal and validity of all legal documents (e.g. passport, visa) so that they are valid.
- In the event that there is a change in educational guardian and an alternative appointed, the school must be informed in writing immediately.
- The school will need to be satisfied about the care arrangements prior to issuing a certificate of sponsorship (CAS). Evidence will need to be submitted with the visa application.

4. What if I have family in the UK who would like to be the educational guardian?

To allow flexibility where parents do not require the full service of an educational guardian, we have developed a partnership with Bright World Guardians (AEGIS Gold Standard) who can offer an "essential guardian package" to Rossall families. This can be used in two ways:

1. Where the use of an educational guardian is unlikely to be used as the boarding student travels home during the holiday periods - this service would be used when a local emergency homestay is required for the student.
2. Where families wish to appoint their own close family member or close friend as an educational guardian - all regulatory checks will be carried out by Bright World to allow the guardian to be appointed.

Additional points for sponsored students:

Educational guardians must work with the School to ensure that sponsored students do not miss the start or end of term, or have any unusual absence without the School's knowledge and consent.

If a sponsored student is out of contact without permission, for more than 10 registrations (between 8.25am and 5.30pm) this could break the conditions of the pupil's licence to stay in the UK under a sponsored student visa. In this situation the School are required to contact UKVI to report a sponsored student missing from education.

5. Private Foster Care Arrangements

Private foster care is an arrangement where someone, other than a close relative, provides care and accommodation for a child under the age of 16 years for 28 consecutive days or more.

The local authority must be informed about a private fostering arrangement at least six weeks before the start of an arrangement or in an emergency, within 48 hours. Failure to notify the local authority of a private fostering arrangement is an offence, and could risk a fine. The School will therefore ask the educational guardian to provide evidence of approvals from the local authority for any student in a private foster care arrangement and should retain these confirmations on the students' files. Further information can be found at www.privatefostering.org.uk.