



Guardianship Charter

STEYNING GRAMMAR SCHOOL DOES NOT APPOINT GUARDIANS ON BEHALF OF PARENTS. IT IS THE PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITY TO NOMINATE A GUARDIANSHIP ORGANISATION / GUARDIAN THAT MEETS ALL OF THE REQUIREMENTS AS SET OUT BELOW.

Following the Children Act (1989), the Protection of Children Act (1999) and the Care Standards Act (2000) Steyning Grammar School, in promoting and safeguarding the welfare of every boarding student, **including those over the age of 18**, requires parents who do not live in the United Kingdom to appoint a Guardian to act on their behalf.

The above legislation protects the rights of children and makes 'proper and appropriate care' a compulsory requirement.

Steyning Grammar School requires all their students whose families live overseas to have a legally appointed Guardian at all times during their stay in the UK. During term time the School assumes duty-of-care for each student and acts in loco parentis. However, there are times (e.g. half-term breaks, or if a student is suspended or excluded by the School, etc.) when the School must be able to hand over duty-of-care to another adult; this being the Guardian appointed by the parents.

For all international students, the School would expect that you appoint a reputable Guardianship Organisation that is accredited by AEGIS (the Association of Educational Guardians for International Students). AEGIS is a national body for monitoring and regulating the welfare of international students and provides accreditation of Guardianship Organisations in line with the National Minimum Standards for Boarding. Contact details for AEGIS are as follows:

AEGIS
The Wheelhouse
Bond's Mill Estate
Bristol Road
Stonehouse
Gloucestershire
GL10 3RF

Telephone: +44 (0) 1453 821293
Email: info@aegisuk.net
Website: www.aegisuk.net

The nominated guardian must fully meet all of the school's requirements including the following:

- be over 25 years of age.
- reside in the United Kingdom **at all times**.
- be a 24 hour point of contact for parents, student and the School.

- reside in the United Kingdom preferably within 2 hours travelling distance from the School by either car or public transport. If the guardian does not reside within 2 hours travelling distance from the school, they must still be prepared to accept duty-of-care for the student at such times when it is necessary.
- be expected to take the student at very short notice – for example, in an emergency where a student falls ill and in case of long term illness, should the student be excluded from the boarding house and needs to be away from School for a time and is unable to return home.
- provide a home from home, where the student can go at long weekends or other weekends by arrangement with the school and during half-term and other School holidays.
- provide both pastoral and educational support.
- make appropriate arrangements for any medical treatment whilst the student is under their duty-of-care.
- be available to collect students from school on the last day of terms and return them on the first day of terms if required by the parents. This may require them to arrange airport transfers and overnight accommodation if necessary.

Guardians should also respect the rights, religion and customs of a child, and adhere to what is commonly regarded as best practice in the guardianship and hosting of international students. This includes having in place a proper agreement with the student's parents as to what the Guardian's responsibilities are.

If, at any time, the nominated Guardian does not meet the School's requirements the School will require the parents to appoint an AEGIS accredited Guardianship Organisation to make adequate guardianship arrangements.

If, at any time, the School considers the guardianship arrangements to be unsatisfactory then the School reserves the right to exclude the pupil until appropriate guardianship arrangements have been made.