



Guardianship Policy

Our pastoral system is very strong at Sidcot and we set great store by ensuring that effective arrangements are made with regard to educational guardianship. The Boarding School Association puts it thus:

'For many from abroad, their guardian is their parents' representative in this country, essential in times of crisis or need for support and advice, available not only to the pupil but also to the School as a proxy for the parents who cannot be contacted for whatever reason. For others, their guardian is the person with whom they stay during school holidays when it is not practicable to return home. The educational guardian has a clear pupil welfare role, bridging between parents, pupil and School.'

During the term time the school is legally responsible for each pupil's welfare, and undertakes parentally delegated responsibilities. However, there are times (e.g. half term holidays, or when a child is suspended by the School etc) when the School must be able to hand over these responsibilities to a properly appointed guardian.

The guardian must be resident in the UK within 2 hours travelling distance from the school by either car or public transport. The guardian may be a nominated friend of the family, or another family member to whom the parent is happy to delegate the role, but whoever it is does need to be aware and fully accepting of the requirements that we have of guardians acting on behalf of pupils. (see later note) The Guardian must have these specific responsibilities delegated to them by the parent and must be willing and able to comply with them. The School requires the parent to put in writing the responsibilities that they have delegated to the guardian and the guardian or agency to put in writing that they accept those responsibilities (see proformas 1 and 2, the Guardian Nomination and the Guardian Agreement.)

Part of our record keeping obligations, as required by the UKBA regulations, is to ensure that we know the whereabouts of all our boarding students at all times. Sidcot will not issue a CAS to any Tier 4 student without a guardian being in place.

Guardian Agencies:

The most common need for a 'professional guardian' comes from those parents who spend a significant amount of time out of the country, or from those who are entirely resident outside the UK. In such circumstances and where neither family nor friends live close enough to take on the role, there may be a need to make use of the services of a guardian agency.

For all international students, the School **strongly recommends that you appoint a reputable guardianship organisation that is accredited by AEGIS** (the Association of Educational Guardians for International Students). Sidcot School is a member of AEGIS. 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 and guidance from Ofsted.

Contact details for AEGIS are as follows:

The Secretary
AEGIS
66 Humphreys Close
Randwick

The Role of and Individual Guardian or Agency:

In general terms an 'individual guardian' or 'Agency' will be expected to do all or some of the following, depending on the specific agreement made with the parent:

- Provide a 24 hour point of contact for parents, pupil, 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.
- Liaise with the school and parents over holiday arrangements.
- Inform the school in writing about all details of travel arrangements made prior to the pupil leaving school for any weekend or for a longer holiday period. The school must know the exact details of pupil's accommodation and the methods of transportation.
- To communicate with Housemaster/Housemistress on a regular basis regarding the welfare of the pupil.

Individual guardians/agencies should adhere to what is commonly regarded as best practice in guardianship. This includes having in place a proper agreement with the pupil's parents as to what the guardian's responsibilities are.

If a pupil does not have a guardian when required to by the school, or the appointed guardian is considered to be unsuitable by the school, the school will invite parents to find a new guardian. Should parents fail to do so they will be required to make adequate temporary guardianship arrangements in the case of emergencies. .

Please note that the choice of guardian is entirely the responsibility of the parent and the school accepts no legal responsibility for any guardianship arrangements. The school does however expect the guardianship arrangements to be satisfactory and to meet the expectations outlined in this document.

Please ensure that both proforma documents are completed and returned to the Registrar in time for your child's first term at Sidcot School.

Guardian's Agreement

(This form is to be completed by the individual guardian or by the guardianship agency and returned to the Registrar before the start of the child's first term at Sidcot School)

Full Name of Pupil:..... **House**
(block capitals)

Name and Address of Guardian or guardianship agency (block capitals):

.....
.....

Tel. (Home) **(Work)**

Fax **Email**

I agree that the duties of an individual guardian/agency include the following responsibilities:

1. To provide a point of contact on a daily basis throughout the School term and be ready to accommodate the pupil in case of an emergency or crisis or in the unfortunate event of their being suspended from School.
2. To collect and deliver pupils to and from airports at half terms, beginnings and ends of term.
3. To collect or arrange collection of the pupil from School for the half term holidays/longer holidays and to provide an appropriate degree of care and supervision during that time.
4. To make suitable alternative arrangements if unable to accommodate the pupil.
5. To be involved in each and every arrangement for the pupil when residing away from school, for example when visiting the family of another pupil or friend.
6. To communicate all such travel details in writing with the Housemaster or House mistress and to provide all necessary details prior to the pupil leaving school for longer holidays.
7. To be ready to attend important parents' conferences or other important meetings at the School on my behalf.
8. To communicate with Housemaster or Housemistress on a regular basis regarding the welfare of the pupil.

I confirm that as the appointed Guardian of the above named pupil I undertake the responsibilities listed above. I am over 25 years of age and reside in the UK. I am not a full time student living in accommodation provided by another educational institution.

Or:

I confirm that the above named agency will undertake the responsibilities listed above. The agency will provide the above named pupil with guardians who are over 25 years of age and reside in the UK. The agency will not use as guardians students who live in accommodation provided by another educational institution.

I accept the School's terms and conditions regarding my appointment as guardian/guardianship agency.

Name

Signature

Guardian/Guardian Agency

Date

Parental Nomination of Guardian/Agency

(This form is to be completed by parents and returned to the Registrar before the start of the child's first term at Sidcot School.)

Full Name of Pupil:..... **House**
(block capitals)

Name and Address of Guardian or Guardianship Agency (block capitals):

.....
.....

Tel. (Home) **(Work)**

Fax **Email**

The above named person/agency is authorised by me to undertake the following responsibilities for my son/daughter throughout the time that they are attending Sidcot School, or until I authorise that the situation has changed:

1. To provide a point of contact on a daily basis throughout the School term and be ready to accommodate my son/daughter in case of an emergency or crisis or in the unfortunate event of their being suspended from School.
2. To collect and deliver pupils to and from airports at half terms, beginnings and ends of term.
3. To collect or arrange the collection of my son/daughter from School for the half term holidays/longer holidays and to provide an appropriate degree of care and supervision during that time.
4. To make suitable alternative arrangements if unable to accommodate my son/daughter.
5. To be involved in each and every arrangement for my son/daughter when residing away from school, for example when visiting the family of another pupil or friend.
6. To communicate all such travel details in writing with the Housemaster or House mistress and to provide all necessary details prior to my son/daughter leaving school for longer holidays.
7. To be ready to attend important parents' conferences or other important meetings at the School on my behalf.
8. To communicate with Housemaster or Housemistress on a regular basis regarding the welfare of my son/daughter.

I confirm that the above named person is over 25 years of age, is resident in the UK and is English speaking. This person is not a full time student living in accommodation provided by another educational institution.

Or :

I confirm that the above named agency will provide my son/daughter with a guardian who is over 25 years of age, resident in the UK and is English speaking. This person will not be a full time student living in accommodation provided by another education institution

I also undertake to notify the School in writing of any change of guardian or of guardianship agency and to provide contact details of the new guardian or agency.

I accept the School's terms and conditions regarding the appointment of a guardian for my child.

Name **Signature(s) (1)**(Parent)

Date **(2)** (Parent)