



GUARDIANSHIP POLICY

Introduction

The Royal Ballet School is delighted to welcome students from all over the world, and values its international students highly. To ensure the best possible care for these students, it is essential that all parents who are not permanently resident in the UK must appoint a guardian in this country to act with their full authority.

We are most grateful to those who undertake to be guardians, and appreciate that becoming a guardian is a generous commitment. There are many rewards to acting as a guardian, including:

- a) meeting a young person from another country and culture
- b) helping a young person who is far away from their own home
- c) assisting a young person to grow in confidence while in their care
- d) watching a gifted young person dance and attending their performances
- e) helping a young person who may have little English to develop their language skills
- f) forming a lifelong relationship with a family from a distant country.

The selection of a guardian

Guardians should be provided by the student's own family. The guardian may be a nominated friend of the family or another family member or contact. The guardian should not be a full-time student and must be over the age of 18.

When a family has difficulty finding a guardian, the School will offer what help it can, at least by supplying a list of Guardian Agencies which supply guardians. It is the responsibility of the parent to choose and pay for a guardian who can fulfill the role to the satisfaction of both the School and the parents.

The choice of guardian is the responsibility of the parent: the School can accept no legal responsibility for any guardianship arrangements. If parents fail to provide a suitable guardian, the School reserves the right to employ the services of a Guardianship Agency who will appoint a host family, the cost of which will be charged to the parents' account.

Any change of guardian must be communicated to the School in writing.

The role and responsibilities of a guardian

The guardian has a number of vital roles, including to:

- a) liaise with the School and act as a representative of a student's family
- b) encourage the student and support them
- c) help with the student's understanding of British culture and the development of their understanding of the English language
- d) make arrangements for accommodating the student during holidays or in the case of severe illness or emergency
- e) liaise with the School about the student's money
- f) oversee arrangements for the storage of the student's belongings
- g) providing a CRB Disclosure (costs are met by the School).

Technical details:

Guardians will receive all term dates, term calendar, and Newsletters.

Half Term holidays usually begin at 1 pm on a Saturday afternoon at Lower School; at 6 pm on Friday at Upper School. Half Term holidays usually end at 2 pm on a Sunday at Lower School; by the usual curfew at Upper School.

Weekends usually begin from 1 pm on a Saturday at both sites. All students return on a Sunday. At Lower School the times of return vary according to park gate closure.

Any financial details of the guardianship, including requests for financial support of the student, should be discussed with the Head of Finance.

The rules which young people should follow when with guardians

When a student stays with a guardian the usual School rules should apply. A copy of the appropriate Handbook will be sent to all guardians and the relevant School policies are available on the School website or in hard copy by request.

The School requests that any student under the age of 15 be accompanied by an adult when travelling. The School will allow unaccompanied travel only in particular circumstances and with written permission from parents and guardian. The School reserves the right to act on its own decision for the welfare of the student.

The School expects students to be in groups of two or more when travelling in London, although if a guardian only has one student staying, the guardian should use their discretion in deciding what is appropriate for that student.

A student should be expected to help with chores around the house and be treated very much as a member of the family.

In emergency:

In an emergency during term time please contact:

- a) Lower School: the Duty House staff mobile on 020 8392 8440 Ext 422
- b) Upper School: the House staff.

In a medical emergency during term time please contact:

- c) Lower School: the Nurse or if she is not available the Duty House staff mobile on 020 8392 8440 Ext 422
- d) Upper School: the House staff.

In a medical emergency in holiday time, please consult the parents and use the emergency services.