



GUARDIANS UK SAFEGUARDING POLICY

SAFEGUARDING

Guardians UK has a safeguarding policy to ensure that students are protected and not put at any risk. The policy also covers, drivers, employees, host families and any other party involved in the care of students and ensures that they are protected appropriately while carrying out their duties.

This policy is implemented by on-going and regular contact with all parties:

Students are visited on a regular basis and asked for feedback when they have stayed with host families in order to alert Guardians UK to any problems.

Host families and drivers are contacted and visited on a regular basis to ensure that we are made aware of any problems they may have had during the time they have been hosting or driving our students. This is also the way in which we ensure that we keep up-to-date with any changes within the host family home or with the drivers' ability to carry out their duties.

Guardians UK & Taunton School's Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy – including Safer Recruitment Policy – is the main part of this safeguarding policy, but other policies are all part of the Safeguarding Policy in place and should be read in conjunction with this. Guardians UK DSL is currently Mr Ed Burnett, Deputy Head of Taunton School. As part of Taunton School Guardians UK is included in and covered by all school policies and is expected to adhere to them.

WHISTLE-BLOWING AND ANTI-RADICALISATION

Please refer to Whistle Blowing policy and Safeguarding policy for these issues.

REVIEWS & UPDATES

This safeguarding policy and the other policies are all reviewed and updated annually.

POLICIES

Guardians UK is part of the Taunton School organisation and adheres to all Taunton School policies. The policies that form part of this Safeguarding Policy are:

Behaviour
Safeguarding & Child Protection
Complaints
E-safety & Acceptable Use for Staff & Students
Data Protection
Health and Safety
Missing Persons

All are available on the Guardians UK Website – www.guardiansuk.com.

TRAINING

Host families and drivers – on-going advice and information is sent to host families. Guardians UK staff are always available to assist host families and visit to advise on any questions they may have. Host families are supplied with information about how to access all policies and information. All are given a copy of the Child Protection policy and card. Host families are given detailed information about the students going to stay with them and drivers are given any relevant information.

All host families are required annually to watch the video of the Safeguarding training undertaken by all employees of Taunton School and to confirm that they have watched it. Some host families who are employed in education, police etc will receive annual training from their own employers.

From January 2021 host families and drivers will be expected to complete the AEGIS certificated course and to confirm that they have done so. Guardians UK will bear the cost of this training.

All drivers undertake an assessment of their driving capabilities.

Employees – Guardians UK staff are employed by Taunton School and are required to attend the on-going training in order to comply with school requirements. These include health and safety, fire training, child protection. The Guardians UK employees will also undertake the AEGIS certificated training from November 2020. The Guardians UK Manager is trained in Child Protection to the appropriate level for this position. Any Child Protection or Safeguarding issues should be raised with the DSL or Deputy DSLs within Taunton School.

LIAISON WITH PARENTS, SCHOOLS AND AGENTS

- The guardianship organisation may be required to share confidential safeguarding information with the DSL of the school or college that the student attends. When a student moves school or college, safeguarding information may be shared with the DSL of the new school. All schools and colleges have their own safeguarding and child protection policies that outline their procedures. These can be found on their websites.

- Whilst the guardianship organisation will work openly with parents as far as possible, it reserves the right to contact the LSP or the police, without notifying parents if this is believed to be in the child's best interests.

Guardians UK will not usually share safeguarding information with agents unless it is necessary to safeguard the student. In this case information will be provided on a need-to-know basis and on the understanding that it should be kept strictly confidential.

CONCERNS ABOUT A CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON

If a member of Guardians UK staff, a host family member or a driver has concerns about a child or young person – no matter what the concern may be – please contact Taunton School’s DSL – details are given below. No concern is too small and it is much better if a problem is picked up in the early stages rather than letting it grow

The DSL and DDSLs are responsible for all safeguarding issues and for dealing with them and raising to the local authority if deemed necessary. Their contact details are as follows:

Designated Safeguard Lead – Ed Burnett. Tel: mobile – 07940 493059, office – 01823 703821, home – 01823 257639.

Deputy Designated Safeguard Leads – Gill Foster. Tel: mobile – 07429 288578, office – 01823 703616, home – 01984 618477. Nell Rosser. Tel: mobile – 07490 976664, office – 01823 703662, home – 01823 259187.

If you still have concerns you can raise with the local authority – Somerset Direct – 0300 1232224.

If you are not in the Somerset area details of the Local Safeguarding Partnership in your area can be found on the following link.

<https://www.safecic.co.uk/your-scb-acpc/55-free-downloads-and-safeguarding-links/61-safeguarding-children-board-links>

CONTACT

The Guardianship Manager and Assistant Guardianship Managers of Guardians UK are contactable on the emergency mobile 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Our office number is: 01823 703190 and our emergency mobile 07968 361761.

OCTOBER 2020