



ROYAL
BALLET
SCHOOL

SETTING THE STANDARD

GUARDIANSHIP POLICY

SEPTEMBER 2024



Registered address: 46 Floral Street • Covent Garden • London WC2E 9DA

www.royalballetschool.org.uk

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STRENGTH

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 and to comply with legal requirements, it is essential that all parents, who are not permanently resident in the UK, appoint an educational 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 another country.

The selection of a guardian

Guardians must 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 25.

When a family has difficulty finding a guardian, the School can supply a list of Guardian Agencies which supply guardians. For legal reasons, the School is not able to arrange or recommend guardians. It is the responsibility of the parent to choose and pay for a guardian who can fulfil the role to the satisfaction of both the School and the parents.

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 during their time at the School
- c) facilitate travel to and from School at the beginning and end of holidays, exerts etc.
- d) make arrangements for accommodating the student during holidays if needed, or in the case of severe illness, emergency or following a medical procedure etc.
- e) liaise with the School about the student's welfare and practical arrangements such as banking
- f) oversee arrangements for the storage of the student's belongings in holiday periods.

Technical details:

The School contacts the nominated Guardians when the student starts at the school. The Guardian is sent a copy of the School Guardianship Policy and they are asked to ensure that they are able to fulfil the requirements of the role. House Staff will check with students that the Guardianship arrangement is working well (after each visit) and will feed back any concerns to parents as appropriate.

Guardians will receive all term dates, the School Calendar and all routine communications from School. Reports can also be sent at the request of the parents. The School will treat Guardians as acting for parents in all matters e.g., medical, behaviour etc. especially when it is not possible to contact parents in a timely fashion.

Appointed Guardians must advise the parents and the School of any absence from the UK during term time and suitable alternative arrangements made for that period. Guardianship Agencies can also recommend Host Families to cover temporary absences or holiday periods of residence etc.

All financial and contractual matters in relationship to the Guardianship are to be arranged between the parents and guardians. Suitable guidance for these arrangements can be found on the website of AEGIS; The Association for the Education and Guardianship of International Students, www.aegisuk.net.

Parents of overseas students must take account of the cost of providing a guardian in their financial considerations for attendance at the School.

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 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 the parents and guardian. The School reserves the right to act on its own decision for the welfare of the student.

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