

Aldenham School

The Role of an Educational Guardian

Although we are aware that communication with overseas parents is much more straightforward than it once was, **it is a condition of entry to Aldenham School that pupils whose parents normally reside outside the UK must have a nominated person to act as guardian whilst the pupil is at school here.**

Since we attach a great deal of importance to it, the following outlines what we, as a school, believe the role of a guardian should be.

An educational guardian **must** provide support for a family (both parent and child) if a child from overseas is at school in the UK and may be separated from parents by a long distance for a considerable period of time.

The choice of a UK school for the education of a child from overseas is difficult. You will have chosen Aldenham, secure in the knowledge that it offers an excellent pastoral care system. Even so, the demands of a top quality school are considerable for parent and child, and there are extra challenges for a family living overseas. Thus we feel it is vital for a child's welfare and happiness that there is someone outside the school, but who lives reasonably close, to turn to for support and guidance to complement the care from within the school.

The guardian, acting as the parents' representative in the UK, will also be required to provide care and supervision during Exeat weekends, half-term holidays, and other holidays not spent at home, as well as helping with the organisation of travel arrangements. The purpose of educational guardianship is to maintain a level of 'family' interest and personal support on behalf of parents while a child is being educated far away from home.

Schools occasionally need a person, acting as guardian, who is readily available to help with day to day personal matters as they arise, and take full responsibility for a child. A friendly well-known face can also provide just the right support to respond immediately in any crisis or emergency. It is also very beneficial for both pupil and parents, and the school, if a guardian can attend the annual Parents' evening at the school whenever the parents themselves are unable to do so.

It is important to emphasise that, as the choice is essentially personal, the selection of a guardian is the responsibility of the parents. There are, however, a number of reputable agencies who are willing to help with this process. Whilst Aldenham School is unable to take on the responsibility of choosing a suitable guardian, the Overseas Recruitment Co-ordinator, Mr McAllister, is able to let you have details of some of these agencies if it would be of help to you. Do not hesitate to contact him or the Admissions Secretary, Mrs Masters, if you require any further explanation or assistance.