



Berkeley Guardians

Home from Home



Email:
Website:
Address:
Registered in England and Wales

support@berkeleyguardians.com
www.berkeleyguardians.com
1 Berkeley Square, Clifton, Bristol BS8 1HL
Company Number: 12230732

Why use an Educational Guardianship?

The British Government encourage all young people coming into the United Kingdom to have a guardian who will be there to care for that child when required. The guardian must be placed in the UK and should be over 26 years old. This guardian is in addition to the school you choose for your son/daughter and will ensure that there is pastoral and welfare care offered outside of the school terms, in the exets and at weekends as required.

Do you have to use the Homestay?

The homestay is offered to young people when the schools are closed at half terms, full holidays (eg Christmas, Easter and Summer) and may be used for occasional weekends etc. There is no obligation to use this if your child is returning home for each school break, but if your child is remaining in the UK, they must be based in a registered homestay that has been inspected, the hosts DRB checked (police checked) or be staying with relatives that has been agreed between you, the school and the guardian agency. The Home Office requires us to know the whereabouts of your son/daughter at all times.

What will an Education Guardianship offer?

All Guardian Agencies offer an in-depth knowledge of the UK's premier boarding schools and will have a selection of homestay families on their registers. They will all have 24/7 commitment for emergency care for your child and practical help with a variety of areas, eg. Bank accounts etc.

The very best Guardian Agencies will also offer your child a mentor and education support to ensure that the best opportunities for success are encouraged and they will also visit regularly through the term/year to ensure that there is a personal touch. Expertise for choice of school and/or university will be offered and safeguarding and child protection will be at the top of their list to keep your child safe whilst in their care.

Berkeley Guardians offers all of this and more

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Why choose us?

Berkeley Guardians aims to have at the heart of its business the care and safety of your child. This is why we offer a very personal service and our family-centred approach gives you the confidence knowing that your child is receiving the best care possible. We have a wealth of experience in dealing with international pupils, education and academic issues, internship opportunities and high quality homestays. We have high standards in all we undertake and dedicated staff to support them. Berkeley Guardians was created to nurture children who come to the UK to learn and be educated, in order for them to have a positive experience and one they will treasure over the years.

We know how we would want our children cared for in this situation and therefore aim to do the same for your children, to ensure you are reassured. Working together we are able to offer unique opportunities for your children e.g. UCAS support from beginning to end, internships for business experience, to name but a few. We will go that extra mile and offer the personal touch to support you and your child in this new and exciting chapter of their lives, shaping them for the future and giving them a far greater understanding of the world.

Karen Pickles - international pastoral care and education management



With over 14 years experience as a Senior Boarding Housemistress at Clifton College (one of the country's leading independent co educational day and boarding schools, for 3 - 18 year olds) on a pastoral, academic and welfare management level and with 20+ years' teaching experience from 4 - 18 years. Karen Pickles has worked closely with international students from many countries and continents and considers it a privilege to have learned about their lives and cultures and she is still in touch with many of them. This strong and professional relationship has ensured she has an extensive understanding of the needs of international students and the need to ensure they have a 'home from home' experience with comforts and support whilst they are in the UK.

Jo Clark - host family accommodation, international projects & internship opportunities



Jo Clark has over 12 years of dedicated experience working and supporting international young people, ensuring they have a valuable life experience whilst in my care. She has extensive experience in profile matching the needs and aspirations of young people to high quality work experience and internship programmes. She matches this with her commitment to providing each young person with the mentoring and pastoral care they need to thrive. She has managed high-quality host family accommodation to ensure a safe and nurturing environment for young people to feel comfortable and secure. Having coordinated several European projects involving individuals to large groups of international students on an intensive programme, it has enabled her to have the understanding of different cultures and needs for young people.

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8 - 18 years Guardianship Packages

At Berkeley Guardians we are a family-centred guardian agency and our first priority is your son or daughter. We believe it is vital that children arriving here in the UK are given the best opportunity to settle.

We offer one package of care called “HOME FROM HOME”

We confidently believe the education your child receives will be enhanced by the care we offer you and this can extend beyond school years into university. Between us, we can support you with tutoring packages, UCAS support and help with choosing the right university and visits to open days as you wish. We have internship opportunities to support your child with work experience, ensuring he/she is well prepared for the application process for UCAS. The complete list of inclusions is explained later in this prospectus.

“Home from Home”

We see this as fundamental, forming a close connection between the school, parents and host families who care for the pupils during their school holidays, exets or in emergencies and, of course, Berkeley Guardians. We offer high quality homestay accommodation and a family environment. This package ensures Berkeley Guardians is able to oversee the pupils from their arrival into the UK, transfer to school or homestay and enables us to keep in regular contact to ensure all is well. We believe, whatever package you choose, the education your child receives will be enhanced by the care we offer you, as a family, and this can extend through school years, into university and beyond.

Home from Home reassures you as parents, enabling you to keep in contact with the Agency as often as you wish by email or telephone or, visiting the UK. We can organise meetings to discuss your child’s academic or pastoral care on a personal level. A member of our team will be placed in a Guardian position for your child and take responsibility for ensuring he/she is settled in school, happy in both homestay and their boarding house and will regularly make contact and visit 4 times annually. It will be important for the Guardian to attend parents’ evenings, meet with the child’s housemaster (housemistress) and support in both a pastoral and academic way to build trust with your son/daughter; leaving you comfortable in the knowledge that your child is well cared for with someone to turn to should they need support. Please see further details in the list below for the full inclusions for this package.

If you would like to include the “extras”, listed in the brochure, we will add these to the **Home from Home** for you. There are many listed and if your particular requirements for extras are missing then please do raise them and we will do our best to accommodate you.



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Together we will work to give your child



the very best “Home from Home”

Our Host Families

We encourage our host families to be fully involved with the young people with whom they share their homes. The “family-centred” approach is vital to ensure that your child is relaxed and enjoys being part of another family. We want them to look forward to sharing “family time” and understanding the nuances of different cultures and traditions at the same time supporting their language skills. Rest assured a member of our team will be in contact by email/phone to ensure your child is happy and settled with their host family and will visit if required. If you have any concerns, we encourage you to contact us immediately so that we can immediately sort out any issues or misunderstandings.



We inspect our host family accommodation to ensure it meets the high standard that we, as Berkeley Guardians expect. During these inspections, we ensure that the accommodation meets our strict requirements for fire, gas, electrical safety and cleanliness as well as supplying the home comforts that your child would require to support their welfare, physical, pastoral and study needs. We DBS check all our host family members over the age of 16 years (if they are not in full time

education) and offer them a variety of training in such areas as first aid, pastoral support, cultural awareness and safeguarding.

***Do look at our website for further information and frequently asked questions**

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EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

We are very pleased to be able to offer your son/daughter academic and educational support at all levels if this is required

Tutoring

We are delighted to offer you a variety of academic tutoring whether you are looking for educational support at any level up to 13 years to enhance understanding of a particular subject or improving language skills; or perhaps your older child needs academic one to one tutoring for GCSE or A level? Whatever your needs to support his/her education, we can help and ensure that your son/daughter is given the best support possible. Our tutors are teachers with an understanding for the needs of the international pupil and will ensure your child receives the support at the appropriate level for his/her needs.

UCAS support

Our UCAS support is offered to ensure that your son/daughter receives all the information he/she needs to make informed choices for university. We are able to offer one to one support to complete the application form, decide on the most appropriate university courses, arrange Open Day visits to the universities chosen and offer career advice. In addition to this, it is the personal statement that often causes the most concern but we will ensure that your son/daughter is given one to one support to write this.

Work experience/Internships

We can provide the all-round cultural experience by providing a variety of high quality practical and shadowing work experience programmes, these will enhance your child's skill set and put into practice their school studies within the work place. There are many advantages to experiencing these programmes, but importantly, they will prepare your son/daughter for work and develop general business awareness, to give that much needed insight into what working life involves. These programmes also define and enlighten informed career decisions, assessing their aptitudes and interest and exploring potential careers. Undoubtedly this will enhance your child's resume and enable them to become more confident, boost their skills and, of course, their employability.

Language courses

Teaching methodology is highly communicative and business focused, with an emphasis on collaboration and problem solving. Your son/daughter will be equipped with the tools and information to learn as independently as possible whilst bringing previous learning techniques to the course. All those involved are expected to be motivated and disciplined and are encouraged to participate as much as possible with individual attention as and when needed, allowing them to flourish within a supported environment. Classes are taught by our team of highly professional teachers who have vast experience teaching both with mixed nationality and monolingual groups.

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Travelling with Berkeley Guardians

Whether collecting from school, airport or homestay we will ensure that your child is driven by a trusted member of our team. He/she will have full business insurance, will have been DBS checked, will wear a lanyard with an identification card and will ensure that he/she shows id when meeting with your child.

Preparations for the start of a new school year



It is a stressful and very busy time for you as a family and we can help by organising the school uniform or stationery required. We are also happy to arrange opening bank accounts, organise mobile phones or other needs.

We will meet your child at the airport on arrival and take them to their school. We will ensure that the school and the child have our emergency number and our email address to contact us at any time, should support be needed. You are more than welcome to use this emergency number should you have any concerns.

We undertake to do our very best for your child and to reassure you as parents too. We would encourage you to keep in touch with us throughout the time that we are caring for your child.

What next?

You will find all the application, medical and other forms to be completed on our website, should you wish to appoint us as guardians to your son/daughter. Should you have any questions at all, please do contact us.

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