



BERKELEY GUARDIANS

Home from Home

PROSPECTUS

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.



BSA Certified Guardian 2020—2023





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 of 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 both you and your child. 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. support for homesickness or someone to talk to, 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 offering 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 coeducational day and boarding schools, for 8 – 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 contact 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.

It is unusual in the guardianship world to have this level of experience in education and boarding schools and this is an excellent opportunity for you to discuss your options, know that the guardianship understands your child's needs at school and can advise on education issues.

***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. She has extensive understanding 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 for many years, 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 a real understanding of different cultures and needs for young people.

8 –18 Guardianship Package

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. There is a list of opportunities which is explained later in this prospectus, but our website will give you up to date information in more detail. Please note that not all opportunities are included in the Home from Home package but many of them are.

'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, 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 Angel 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 four 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 but if your particular requirements for extras are missing then please do raise them and we will do our best to accommodate you.



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 your child's appointed Guardian Angel 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 resolve any issues or misunderstandings.

We always inspect our host family accommodation to ensure it meets the high standard that we expect. During these inspections, we ensure the accommodation meets our strict requirements for fire, gas, electrical safety and cleanliness as well as offering the home comforts your child will require to support their welfare, physical, pastoral and study needs. We DBS check all our host family members over the age of 16 years and offer them a variety of training in such areas as first aid, pastoral support, cultural awareness and safeguarding.

Refer to our website for further information and frequently asked questions

1 Berkeley Square, Clifton, Bristol BS8 1HL
Phone: 07565 493818 / 07565 493803
Email: support@berkeleyguardians.com
Web: www.berkeleyguardians.com



Education Opportunities

We are very pleased to offer your son/daughter academic and educational support at all levels as 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 or other Level 3 subject area? 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.

UCAS support

Our UCAS support is offered to ensure 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. It is the personal statement that often causes most concern and we will support your son/daughter 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 insight into what working life involves. These programmes also define and enlighten informed career decisions, assessing aptitudes and interests 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.

LAMDA – Speech and Drama courses

One to one lessons can be organised for online tuition for Speaking in Public, Speaking Verse and Prose or Reading for Performance at any level. We can organise the support required and the examinations.



See our website for details of all opportunities on offer

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. Our representative will have full business insurance, DBS check, and will wear a lanyard with an identification card and will show this when meeting with your child.

Preparations for the start of the 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 and stationery required. We can also help to arrange opening bank accounts, organise mobile phones etc.

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 encourage you to keep in touch with us throughout the time we are caring for your child.

What next?

All the application, medical and other forms to be completed are on our website.

It is important that you contact us by email or phone if you have any questions at all.

We are here to help and support you

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Why use an Educational Guardianship?

UK Boarding Schools encourage all young people coming into the United Kingdom to appoint 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 an independent company 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 exeat and at weekends as required and also to deal with the unexpected.

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 a 24/7 commitment of emergency care for your child, so that if the unexpected happens and your child needs to leave the school for disciplinary procedures or illness — we are there to support and ensure he/she is given the best care. We offer a range of services 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

Please contact us for our fees list

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Registered in England and Wales
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