



BERKELEY GUARDIANS

Home from Home

PROSPECTUS

Berkeley Guardians was created to nurture children who come to the UK to learn and be educated, to enable them to have a positive experience and one they will treasure over the years.





Why choose us?

Berkeley Guardians has at the heart of our business, the care and safety of your child. We offer a personal bespoke service and our family-centred approach gives you the confidence of knowing 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 and a dedicated staff to support you and your child. Berkeley Guardians was created to nurture children who come to the UK to learn and be educated, for them to have a positive experience and one they will treasure over the years.

We know how we would wish our children to be cared for and therefore provide the same for your children. 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 offer the personal touch to support you and your child in this new and exciting chapter of their lives, shaping them for the future enabling a far greater understanding of the world.

Karen Pickles - CEO 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 3–18 year olds) on a pastoral, academic and welfare management level and with 20+ years' teaching and leadership 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 remains 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 provide a 'home from home' experience with comfort 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 by enables the opportunity for you to discuss all your concerns and wishes. in the knowledge the guardianship understands and can provide the answers.



8 –18 Guardianship Package

Berkeley Guardians is a family-centered 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 two packages of care:

Comfort Package and *Comfort Plus Package*

We confidently believe the education your child receives will be enhanced by the care we offer and this can extend beyond school years into university. Between us, we can support with tutoring packages, UCAS support and help with choosing the right university including visits to your preferred University open days. We have internship opportunities to support with work experience, ensuring your child is well prepared for the UCAS application process. There is a list of opportunities (explained later in this prospectus) and our website will give you up to date information. Please note not all opportunities are included in the 'Home from Home' package.

Comfort Package

This is aimed at the European community coming to the UK to spend one or two terms at a boarding school and thereby only seeking the basics of support as required by their chosen school. We include in this both pastoral and welfare support to ensure your child settles at school and, if required, one visit a year at school (or online) to support in any way required. We will keep in touch with your child through Whatsapp messages. In this package, we offer support for homestay if the need arises and travel arrangements. It does not include attendance at parent evenings, nor does it include any education support, but this can be arranged if required.

Comfort Plus Package

The package offers support for the three main areas of need: education, welfare and pastoral support. Including support visits as required alongside regular meetings with the House staff and tutors to ensure all is going well in all respects. We will be keeping in touch with your child through Whatsapp and with your family.





Why offer a range of care?

Every family is different and requires different support for a number of reasons and Berkeley Guardians has a very flexible approach to caring for each child. These packages ensure 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 and this can extend through school years, into university and beyond.

Our Home from Home Comfort Packages reassure you as parents; enabling you to keep in contact with the Agency as often as you wish by email, 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 ensuring they settle in school, happy in both homestay and their boarding house. If you have chosen the Comfort plus option, it will be important for the Guardian Angel 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 child; leaving you comfortable in the knowledge that your child is well cared for by someone they can trust. Whichever package you choose, your child will receive the best and most supportive care.

The "extras", listed in the brochure, can be added to your chosen Home from Home Comfort Package. If your particular requirements 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 sharing their homes. This "family-centred" approach is vital to ensure your child is comfortable, 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 regular contact by email/phone to ensure your child is happy and settled with their host family. If you have any concerns, we encourage you to immediately contact us so we can resolve any issues or misunderstandings.

We always inspect our host family accommodation to ensure it meets our high standards. During these inspections, we ensure the accommodation meets 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.

Please refer to our website for further information and frequently asked questions



Education Opportunities

We are very pleased to offer your son or 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 subject area. We can help and ensure your son or daughter is given the best support possible. Our tutors are teachers with an excellent understanding of the needs of the international pupil.

UCAS support

UCAS support is offered to ensure your son or daughter receives all the information they need to make informed choices for university. We can offer 'one to one' support to complete application forms, decide on the most appropriate university courses, arrange Open Day visits to your chosen universities and career. Personal statements often cause the most concern and we are here to help, having assisted many pupils' applications over the past 20 years.

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 including examinations.





Please see our website for details of all opportunities on offer

Travelling with Berkeley Guardians

Whether collecting from school, airport or homestay we will ensure 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 shown this when meeting 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 required stationery. We can also help to arrange opening bank accounts, organise mobile phones etc.

We can arrange to have your child met at airport arrivals and transfer them to their school or organise transport and collection. We ensure the school and the child have our emergency number and email address to contact us at any time. 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 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 or we can send them to you via email – just contact us: karen@berkeleyguardians.com

We are here to help and support you

The Bristol Office, 2nd Floor, 5 High Street,
Westbury-on-Trym BS9 3BY
Phone: 07565 493818
Email: karen@berkeleyguardians.com
Web: www.berkeleyguardians.com



Why use an Educational Guardianship?

UK Boarding Schools encourage all young people coming into the United Kingdom to appoint a guardian who will provide care when required. The guardianship must be placed in the UK and individual guardians over 26 years of age. Guardianships are an independent company to the school and will ensure there is pastoral and welfare care offered outside of the school terms, in the exets and at weekends as required and also be there 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 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, 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 or 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 they are 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 also offer your child a mentor and education support to ensure 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:
karen@berkeleyguardians.com



The Bristol Office
2nd Floor, 5 High Street,
Westbury-on-Trym BS9 3BY
Phone: 07565 493818
Email: karen@berkeleyguardians.com
Web: www.berkeleyguardians.com



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