



# THE ROYAL BALLET SCHOOL

## **Guardians at the Royal Ballet School Lower School**

### **Guidelines:**

We appreciate that becoming a guardian is a generous commitment.

### **The selection of a guardian:**

1. Guardians must be nominated by the student's own family, with contact names and addresses supplied. Please note however, that because of the possibility that guardians may be asked to accommodate a pupil overnight in an emergency, brothers or sisters under the age of 18 are not suitable guardians for students at The Royal Ballet School.
2. The School will do its best to assist the family in finding a suitable guardian but it is the family's responsibility to initiate this.
3. If possible the parents should meet the guardian selected by the school near the beginning of the guardianship.
4. There are Guardian Agencies which supply guardians but these are expensive and are the responsibility of the parent to secure and reimburse

### **The role of a guardian:**

1. to act as a representative of a student's family while the student is at the school
2. to provide a homely environment for school holidays and weekends where required
3. to look after a student whose family is unable to see them regularly because they live overseas
4. to encourage them and support them whenever possible by attending their performances
5. to help with their understanding of British culture and to help with the development of a student's understanding of the English language in the home environment
6. to liaise with the School and with a student's parents
7. to assist the school on behalf of the parents of a student in the case of a medical or disciplinary matter

### **The responsibilities of a guardian:**

1. For those student's who are unable to get home for Exeats and half term holidays to look after them for the duration of the holiday
2. Where a student has a problem with flight times at the start and end of terms, to look after a student so that they are not stranded at the School
3. To provide a suitable room for a student to sleep in.
4. If a taxi is unavailable, to provide transport to the airport
5. To liaise with the School about pocket money available for a student to use while staying with the guardian
6. To make immediately essential purchases of small items as necessary for which the guardians will of course be reimbursed by the family.
7. Liaise with the student's parents about academic and balletic progress, and any other matters which may concern parents, guardians or the School
8. To sign out and in with the House Staff when taking a student away for a weekend, half term or holidays.
9. To liaise with House Staff about the frequency of visits during term time.
10. If the school has provided a guardian, they will not be taken on until a CRB check has been completed satisfactorily.



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## **The benefits of being a guardian:**

1. Meeting a young person from another country and culture
2. Helping a young person who is far away from their own home
3. Assisting a young person to grow in confidence while in their care
4. Watching a gifted young person dance and attending their performances
5. Helping a young person who may have little English to develop their language skills
6. Forming a lifelong relationship with a family from a distant country

## **Technical details:**

1. Half term holidays usually begin at 1.00pm on a Saturday afternoon
2. Half term holidays usually end at 2.00pm on a Sunday
3. Guardians will receive the term dates, term calendar, and Newsletters
4. Weekends usually begin from **1.00pm** on a Saturday. All students return on a Sunday. Latest time varies according to park gate closure.

## **The rules which young people should follow when with guardians:**

1. When a student stays with a guardian the usual school rules should apply, a copy of which is sent to every guardian.
2. A copy of the Lower School Student and Parent Handbook will be sent to all guardians.
3. As guideline we do not expect to allow students under 16 to travel to and from London without adult supervision.
4. If a guardian is in doubt they should contact the Head or Deputy Head of Lower school.
5. A student should be expected to help with chores around the house and be treated very much as a member of the family.

## **In emergency:**

1. In an emergency, during term time please contact the Duty House staff mobile on 020 8392 8440 Ext 422
2. In a medical emergency during term time, please contact the nurse
3. In a medical emergency in holiday time, please consult the parents and use the emergency services

**Pippa Hogg**

Head of Lower School

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