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## CHILD STUDENT VISA AND NOMINATED GUARDIANSHIP POLICY

Author:	Director of Admissions
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**Bryanston School's Sponsor Licence Number: HR52QEFT3**

### **PART ONE: Child Student Visas**

Bryanston holds a Student Sponsor Licence issued by the United Kingdom Visas and Immigration (UKVI) that allows us to sponsor overseas pupils to apply for a Child Student visa (or Student visa if applicable) to enter the UK to study with us.

Our Sponsor Licence is important to the School and significant trust is placed on the School by UKVI. In order for us to maintain and keep our Sponsor Licence, we have to make sure that we meet the UKVI's rules and regulations and meet our duties surrounding all aspects of student sponsorship.

For international pupils who wish to come to the UK to study at Bryanston, the School will make all reasonable efforts to assist pupils and parents to comply with the UKVI requirements on visa entry. This includes assigning a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) and, where appropriate, checking visa application supporting documents are compliant with UKVI regulations.

**In order to comply with our UKVI 'right to study' check and record keeping obligations, Bryanston cannot accept any pupil to start their course of study until we have received evidence of visa approval from UKVI and a signed Bryanston UKVI Parental Consent Letter.**

The School is unable to assist with resolving visa related issues other than those where either a current or prospective pupil is sponsored by the School - although in certain circumstances, it may be appropriate for the parents of sponsored pupils to seek independent legal advice.

The School strongly advises parents to be aware of the regular changes to the UK visa application process and ensure that they are fully up to date with these changes. The latest visa information from the UK Government can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/child-study-visa>.

### **Responsibilities of Parents**

**Once a CAS is assigned to a pupil, it is the responsibility of the child's parents to apply for a Child Student visa so the child can enroll at Bryanston.** The majority of sponsored pupils are sponsored with a 'Child Student CAS'. 'Student CAS' are only issued in very rare cases where a pupil is aged 18+ and therefore not eligible for a Child Student CAS.



**Parents must ensure that they apply for a Child Student visa using the following link: Child Student visa: Apply - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).** If a child has been issued a Child Student CAS, the parents should not apply for a **Student** visa, which is a different study visa route requiring a different type of CAS called a Student CAS.

### **Proof of Funds**

One of the requirements for a Child Student Visa application is that parents can demonstrate sufficient funds to enable their child to attend the course of study in the UK. UKVI guidance states that parents must be able to show that they have the money available to pay the school fees for the first year of their child's course. Before allocating a CAS, the School must therefore receive the following:

- **Payment of the Acceptance Deposit, Confirmation Deposit and One Term Fee Deposit.**

In addition, for nationalities required to submit financial evidence with their visa application:

- **Payment of the first two term's fees.** These will be invoiced to parents at the start of the Child Student Visa application process, up to six months in advance of entry to the School. Parents may choose to pay the first term's fees only and provide UKVI compliant bank statements as proof of funds for the remaining two terms fees. Where we have not received the school fees for the first academic year in full, the School will check that all proof of funds meet UKVI requirements before assigning a CAS.

Please check requirements for your nationality here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/financial-evidence-for-student-and-child-student-route-applicants#exempt>

### **PART TWO: Nominated Guardians:**

In addition to our responsibilities as outlined in the School's Safeguarding Policy, UKVI rules require that care arrangements are 'suitable' for pupils at all times when they are in the UK, and not just when they are in the care of the school.

Additional legislation with which the school must comply regarding the safeguarding and promotion of the welfare of pupils includes:

1. The Children Act 1989
2. The National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools which states that the School will take appropriate steps to ensure that the guardianship arrangement is 'promoting the welfare, physical wellbeing and emotional wellbeing of the boarder'.

Essentially, a nominated guardian serves as the primary contact in the UK for pupils whose parents live abroad or are otherwise unable to provide immediate support.

**Please Note:** For international pupils requiring Child Student Visa sponsorship, Bryanston can only assign a CAS once details of an approved guardian arrangement is in place and details have been provided.



Nominated guardians' responsibilities include:

- Providing a safe and supportive environment during school breaks or emergencies;
- Acting as a liaison between the school and parents;
- Attending meetings or making decisions on behalf of the parents when necessary;
- Accompanying the child, to and from school at the start and end of each term and half term or making the necessary arrangements of an accompanying adult.

In line with the National Minimum Standards for boarding schools, Bryanston must 'take appropriate steps to ensure that the guardianship arrangement is promoting the welfare, physical wellbeing and emotional wellbeing of the boarder'. Following updated Child Student guidance published by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) in May 2025, it is Bryanston's policy that parents must appoint an educational guardian. Therefore, all boarding pupils with a Child Student visa must have a nominated guardian to support their child whilst studying at Bryanston.

Please note that the School is unable to arrange or recommend Guardians. If a family has difficulty in finding a suitable Guardian, the School advises looking on The Association for the Education and Guardianship of International Students (AEGIS) website ([www.aegisuk.net](http://www.aegisuk.net)) for a list of their accredited guardianship services or The Boarding School Association website at [www.boarding.org.uk](http://www.boarding.org.uk) for a list of the (BSA) certified guardian schemes.

Bryanston School does not have any relationships or links with any of the guardians or guardianship companies listed. Any agreement that is made between parents and a guardian is a completely private arrangement, but if accredited, we consider this complying with the standards.

### **Who Can be a Nominated Guardian?**

A nominated guardian must be a responsible adult (over 25 years of age) based in the UK, no further than 2-3 hours' drive away from Bryanston, not in full-time education, nor required to travel for extensive periods, and meets at least one of the following requirements:

- A close family member who holds British or Irish citizenship or settled status in the UK.
- A family friend (though Bryanston discourages this due to safeguarding concerns) who holds British or Irish citizenship or settled status in the UK.
- A professional guardianship organisation (strongly recommended, as their accreditation ensures they adhere to all the UKVI requirements).

### **Non-Boarding Sponsored Child Students**

UKVI Regulations only allow certain permissible living arrangements for children sponsored under the Child Student visa route. If your child will not be a full-time boarding pupil, Bryanston will only assign a CAS if the proposed UK living arrangements comply with the Child Student Visa rules.

## **PART THREE: Pupil Arrangements, Attendance, Medical Access and Private Fostering:**

### **Care Arrangements for Pupils during Exeat and Holiday Periods**

It is the School's responsibility to ensure that suitable care arrangements have been put in place by the parents for all sponsored visa pupils during exeat and holiday periods where the pupil remains in the UK – this includes travel arrangements for the pupil.

New rules require Bryanston to take on a greater duty in respect of travel arrangements, including making "reasonable endeavors" to document a sponsored child's arrival and departure



details including, who will collect them, and their accommodation plans outside of school.

The school does not consider unsupervised stays in hotel or bed and breakfast accommodation to be an acceptable level of accommodation or care. It is also not considered to be a suitable arrangement for the pupil to stay in university student accommodation even if this is with a family member.

Parents/Guardians are required to inform the School of the details of these arrangements including:

- The address(es) where the pupil will be residing;
- Confirmation of the dates the pupil will be in their care;
- Name and DOB of individual responsible for the pupil's care;
- Contact details of the individual responsible for the pupil's care;
- Details on travel from and return to the School.

**Please note:** Parents of international students need to be aware that the school reserves the right to reject the arrangements planned for their child when they are residing out of school, if deemed unacceptable or inappropriate by the school. The parents will have to make alternative arrangements and the school would be under no obligation to provide a place or continued place at the school until such time that arrangements deemed acceptable by the school can be put in place.

### **Attendance and Engagement**

To comply with the UKVI regulations, the School must keep a record of sponsored visa pupils' attendance and report any issues of consistent non-attendance to the UKVI. Pupils must ensure that their attendance levels and engagement are satisfactory or risk their Child Student Visa sponsorship being withdrawn.

Parents of sponsored Child Student Visa pupils are therefore requested to adhere to term dates when booking international flights as a pupil's non-attendance is recorded if they arrive late at the beginning of term or leave early at the end of term and depending upon the circumstances, this may constitute an unauthorised absence.

The School has a duty to report to the UKVI if a pupil misses '10 consecutive expected contact points' without authorisation. Bryanston defines an 'expected contact point' as 'one school day' (AM and PM registration).

### **Working in the UK**

The UKVI regulations relating to what work a pupil can do on a Child Student Visa are very strict. This is because the primary purpose of a Child Student Visa is to come to the UK to study. Only pupils aged 16 and over holding a Child Student Visa can work up to 10 hours per week during term time and full-time during vacation periods. Penalties for breaching these rules, even accidentally, are severe. Details of work restrictions and limitations can be found on a pupil's eVisa.

### **NHS Overseas Charging**

Not all NHS services are free. Urgent and immediately necessary treatment will never be withheld, however, having the correct insurance or EHIC card often avoids unnecessary anxiety.

Please be aware that in compliances with NHS guidance, where the patient does not provide the appropriate and valid documents, an invoice for payment will be raised. Parents will be responsible for meeting such payments.



When attending hospital, the School will ensure wherever possible, the pupil brings with them;

- Identification – Ideally a passport.
- Confirmation of their home address
- Confirmation of temporary UK address
- Contact details of next of kin
- Contact details of responsible adult in the UK (minors only)
- Where the patient does not speak English, an accompanying interpreter. (The cost of the interpreter will be charged to parents)

### **Entering the UK**

It is the responsibility of Parents/Guardians to familiarise themselves with the latest rules on entering the UK before a pupil travels. This applies every time a pupil travels to the UK, not just the first time they enter on their Child Student Visa. Rules and restrictions may change regularly so please check the UK Government website ([www.gov.uk/uk-border-control](http://www.gov.uk/uk-border-control)) when booking flights and before travelling.

It is important to retain proof of travel (boarding pass, entry stamp in passport) for the school to record entry and exit dates into the United Kingdom.

### **Private Fostering**

Private Fostering Private foster care is an arrangement where someone, other than a ‘close relative’, provides care and accommodation for a child under the age of 16 years for 28 consecutive days or more. A close relative, as defined by UKVI, is a grandparent, brother, sister, step-parent or aunt (sister or half-sister of the parent). Please note this does not cover some relatives, including cousins, which families may consider a ‘close relative’, but which are not covered by the above definition.

The local authority must be told about a private fostering arrangement at least six weeks before the start of an arrangement or in an emergency, within 48 hours. Failure to notify the local authority of a private fostering arrangement is an offence. The Local Authority may visit the family and undertake an assessment. This assessment may involve requesting to meet all adult members of the family.

The school is required to contact the relevant local authority to ensure appropriate safeguarding is in place. Failing to notify the local authority could also lead to revocation of the School’s Student Sponsor Licence. The school will therefore ask for evidence of approvals from the local authority for any pupil in a private foster care arrangement and will retain these confirmations on the pupils’ files.

### **Pupil Wellbeing**

Any concerns about a Guardianship arrangement will be reported to the designated safeguarding lead and may involve external agencies as and when required.