

10 Questions to Ask

Before Choosing an Educational Guardian for Your Child

Use this checklist when researching guardianship and homestay options for your child

CHECKLIST

PRINT AND TICK OFF AS YOU GO

QUESTION 1

- ☐ **Is the provider independently accredited by AEGIS?**
AEGIS is the UK's only independent accrediting body for guardianship organisations. Accreditation requires an independent inspection — it is not self-declared.

QUESTION 2

- ☐ **Who will be your child's direct point of contact?**
Ask for a name. A guardian who knows your child personally is not the same as a service that routes you through multiple contacts.

QUESTION 3

- ☐ **How many students does the provider support at one time?**
A smaller number means more personal attention. Ask whether your child will be genuinely known, or simply one of many being accommodated.

QUESTION 4

- ☐ **Does the guardian hold a current enhanced DBS certificate?**
An enhanced DBS check is a minimum requirement. Ask when it was last issued and whether it is renewed on a regular basis.

QUESTION 5

- ☐ **Is there a qualified Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) in place?**
A DSL has specific training to identify and respond to safeguarding concerns — this is distinct from general safeguarding awareness.

QUESTION 6

- ☐ **What happens if my child has a welfare concern or becomes unwell?**
Ask how concerns are handled in practice: who responds, how quickly, and what the emergency contact arrangements are.

QUESTION 7

- ☐ **Does the guardian have a professional background in child welfare?**
Experience working with children in education, therapy or specialist services goes significantly beyond hosting experience alone.

QUESTION 8

- ☐ **Is the safeguarding policy available to view?**
Any reputable provider should be able to share their safeguarding and child protection policy. Hesitation here is worth noting.

QUESTION 9

- ☐ **Can you speak with someone before making any commitment?**
A provider confident in their service will welcome a conversation. There should be no pressure to commit before you are ready.

QUESTION 10

- ☐ **Will my child be emotionally supported, not just accommodated?**
Safe accommodation is the baseline. Ask what emotional support looks like in practice — around homesickness, anxiety or difficult moments.

Ready to find out more?

Book a free discovery call with Becky Stone — no commitment required

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