

# A.S. Guardians Complaints Policy

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## Policy Statement

A.S. Guardians endeavour to always provide the highest standards of service to our clients. However, we recognise that legitimate concerns or complaints may arise from time to time; from students, staff, schools, parents, or host families. As a company we encourage these concerns or complaints being made known to A.S. Guardians staff at the earliest opportunity so that they can be addressed in partnership with us, and we can continuously improve our service.

At A.S. Guardians we:

- Take all concerns and complaints seriously;
- Make every effort to deal with concerns or complaints informally and at an early stage;
- Aim to resolve all complaints within 28 working days of the complaint being received;
- Ensure that complaints are dealt with in line with the procedures set out in this document;
- Ensure that, where appropriate, a full and fair investigation of the issue is undertaken;
- Ensure that no-one, including students, are penalised for making a complaint in good faith;
- Keep a written record, for at least three years, of all complaints, the action taken and at what stage they were resolved;
- Review regularly at senior management level the written record of complaints and their outcomes;
- Keep confidential all records relating to individual complaints;
- Maintain a record of formal complaints and their outcomes.

## Complaints Procedure

### Stage 1: Informal Stage

It is hoped that most concerns or complaints can be resolved informally. A concern or complaint can be made in person, in writing or by telephone. They may also be made by a third party acting on behalf of a complainant, if they have appropriate

consent to do so.

Concerns should be raised with the Designated Safeguarding Lead, who will:

- Keep a record of the complaint and any action taken;
- Respond to all complaints or concerns within 24 hours;
- Investigate the concern or complaint;
- Report back to the complainant within 14 working days.

If the issue remains unresolved, the next step is to make a formal complaint.

### Stage 2: Formal Stage

If the complainant is not satisfied with how the concern has been handled, they can make a formal complaint. This should be sent in writing to the Director who will:

- Keep a record of the complaint and any action taken;
- Respond initially to the complainant within 24 hours;
- Investigate the concern or complaint – this may take some time but in any event they will keep the complainant informed of progress made;
- Report back to the complainant formally in writing no later than 28 working days;
- If the issue remains unresolved, the next step is to refer the matter to AEGIS.

### Stage 3: Referral of the matter to AEGIS

If complainants are not satisfied with the outcome as decided by AS Guardians, they can contact AEGIS to report their concerns if they wish to do so. Relevant contact details are set out below:

Yasemin Wigglesworth  
Executive Officer Association for the Education and Guardianship of International Students (AEGIS)  
The Wheelhouse,  
Bond's Mill Estate,  
Bristol Road,  
Stonehouse,  
Gloucestershire,  
GL10 3RF  
+44 (0) 1453 821293  
[www.aegisuk.net](http://www.aegisuk.net)

### Review

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

This policy was last reviewed on: 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Signed:

Date: