



Student Behaviour Policy

Guardianship Organisation · AEGIS Accredited

Document reference	Policy 8.7
Version	0.5
Date	September 2026
Policy owner	Victoria Barfoot-Saunt, Compliance Director
Next review	September 2027
Applies to	All directors, staff, volunteers, homestays, students, parents and agents

Statutory basis. This policy has been written to align with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026 (in force 1 September 2026), Working Together to Safeguard Children (current version) and the AEGIS Code of Practice and Quality Standards for Guardianship Organisations.

A note on applicability. Keeping Children Safe in Education, referred to throughout as KCSIE, is statutory guidance for schools and colleges. BOSSS UK is a guardianship organisation and is not a school, so KCSIE does not apply to it directly. BOSSS UK nevertheless adopts KCSIE as its safeguarding standard because AEGIS requires accredited guardianship organisations to align with it, and because our staff and homestays care for the same children outside term time. Where a KCSIE requirement is written for a school setting, we apply the equivalent proportionate arrangement and say so.

1 Purpose and scope

- 1.1** The purpose of this policy is to set out the positive behaviour, being the Student Code of Conduct, that BOSSS UK expects from its students, and to provide guidance in the key areas of those expectations.
- 1.2** This policy is for students, parents, agents, staff, volunteers and homestays. It must be read alongside the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy 8.1 and the Staff and Homestay Code of Conduct 8.9.
- 1.3** Students are also provided with a copy of the BOSSS UK Student Handbook. This includes detail on expected behaviour and customs, and the behaviour expected while staying with a homestay, with particular attention to the section relating to safeguarding and child protection.
- 1.4** Any concern about the behaviour of a student must be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Behaviour and safeguarding are not the same thing. Some matters that look like behaviour are safeguarding concerns and must be dealt with under Policy 8.1, not under this policy. In particular, the making or sharing of nudes and semi-nudes, harmful sexual behaviour, sexual harassment, discriminatory or prejudice-based abuse, and any indication of self-harm or suicide risk must be reported to the DSL immediately and must never be handled as a behaviour matter alone. See paragraph 3 below.

2 Designated Safeguarding Lead and Prevent Lead contact details

Role	Name	Contact number (24 hour)	Email
Designated Safeguarding Lead and Prevent Lead	Tina Wong	+44 (0)7776 206352	info@bosssguardians.com
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Prevent Lead	Eva (Haiwa) Qui	+44 (0)7922 152628	info@bosssguardians.com

If neither can be reached, contact the Managing Director, Betty Ong-Stevens, on +44 (0)7710 946398. In an emergency, dial 999.

3 Behaviour that must be escalated as a safeguarding concern

- 3.1** This paragraph is new in version 0.4 and reflects Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026. The following must be reported to the DSL on the day it comes to light, and must not be resolved by the homestay or by a sanction under this policy:

Matter	Why it is a safeguarding concern
Making or sharing nudes and semi-nudes, including images that are digitally altered or	KCSIE 2026 requires every such incident to be treated as a safeguarding concern. Creating or sharing such images of anyone under 18 is illegal. Do not view, copy, forward, save or delete the

Matter	Why it is a safeguarding concern
generated using artificial intelligence	image, and do not ask the student to delete it
Harmful sexual behaviour, sexual harassment or sexual violence between students	Child-on-child abuse under Part 4 of Policy 8.1. Never dismissed as banter or part of growing up
Misogynistic language, attitudes or online content	KCSIE 2026 links misogyny to harmful sexual behaviour and requires early identification. Normally addressed educatively, but it must still be recorded
Racist, faith-based, disability-based or other discriminatory behaviour	Prejudice-based harm is a safeguarding matter and is expressly a form of child-on-child abuse under KCSIE 2026
Any sign of self-harm, suicidal thinking or suicide risk	A standalone safeguarding concern under KCSIE 2026. See Part 5 of Policy 8.1
Bullying, including cyberbullying	May be a child protection issue where the student is likely to suffer significant harm
Carrying a knife or other weapon	A criminal offence in the United Kingdom, including where carried for self-protection, and a serious violence indicator

3.2 Reporting a matter under paragraph 3.1 does not prevent a proportionate behavioural response later. It means the DSL decides the sequence, not the homestay.

4 Behaviour and conduct when staying with a homestay

Students should understand that, as the homestay guest, it is the student's responsibility to adapt. BOSSS UK expects the following behaviour and conduct from its students:

- be polite, respectful and courteous to your homestay family at all times;
- abide by the meal times and other routines of the homestay;
- respect the homestay's preferences in television and music;
- treat any family pets appropriately;
- receive visitors with respect and discretion;
- wash your own clothes, if arrangements have not been made for the family to do the laundry, and take showers according to the family schedule;
- be willing to interact with your host family, both in the home and at family or community events, while understanding that there are many aspects of the personal lives of the family in which you should not expect to share;
- respect the homestay's dietary choices;
- take pride in your appearance and personal hygiene;
- respect all property belonging to the school, the homestay family and fellow students, and do not take or damage property which does not belong to you;

- keep your own living space clean and tidy;
- advise your homestay family if you are planning to be late or absent for a meal;
- if travelling to a different town or area, advise your homestay and BOSSS UK of your method of travel, who you are travelling with, your time of departure and your estimated time of return;
- adhere to the homestay rules and requests regarding use of the shower at night, use of the telephone, use of the internet and bedtime curfews;
- show tolerance and respect towards people of all religions, races, sexes and backgrounds, and be alert to any attempt at indoctrination or radicalisation. Report any such incident to the DSL or Deputy DSL; and
- generally, adhere to school rules while in your homestay family.

5 Sanctions and how they are recorded

- 5.1** Students breaching any of BOSSS UK's policies may be subject to disciplinary action. In every case:
- the date of the breach and its description is recorded in the BOSSS UK policy breach log;
 - the student's parents, homestay, school and, where appropriate, law enforcement are notified;
 - where a sanction is appropriate, it is discussed and agreed between BOSSS UK, the parents, the homestay, the school and, where appropriate, law enforcement;
 - any sanction imposed, such as grounding, is recorded in the policy breach log; and
 - where monitoring of the student is appropriate, this is also documented in the breach log.
- 5.2** Typical sanctions include a verbal reprimand, boarding detention, early bedtime, community service, withdrawal of a privilege, isolation from peers, suspension, curfew arrangements and, in the most serious cases, permanent exclusion from our services.
- 5.3** Sanctions must be proportionate, must never involve any form of corporal punishment, and must never involve the withholding of food, of contact with parents, or of access to the DSL. All forms of corporal punishment are banned and no member of staff, agent, school or homestay may inflict corporal punishment on a student. See the Staff and Homestay Code of Conduct 8.9.
- 5.4** Where a student has additional needs or a disability, the sanction must take account of whether the behaviour is a manifestation of that need. Where it may be, the DSL is consulted before a sanction is applied.

6 Curfew arrangements

- 6.1** Students under the age of 18 are given curfew times depending on their age, which must be adhered to.
- 6.2** If a student under 18 knows they will be late, they must inform their homestay immediately.
- 6.3** If a homestay considers that the set curfew times are not appropriate and wishes the student to return home earlier, the student must abide by the curfew set by the homestay.
- 6.4** Where no curfew has been specifically set, the recommended times in host confirmation letters apply. Recommended curfew times are:

Student age	Curfew
13 and younger	Must not be allowed out of the homestay unaccompanied at any time
14 to 15	Must be home between 21.00 and 21.30
16 to 17	Must be home between 22.00 and 22.30

- 6.5** Where a student fails to arrive home by these times and cannot be contacted, the homestay must inform the DSL or Deputy DSL immediately. The Missing Student procedure at Part 8 of Policy 8.1 then applies.

7 Use of the homestay's facilities

7.1 Kitchen

- Use of the kitchen is permitted outside meal times for snacks and drinks.
- Be respectful of the homestay's kitchen and do not leave dirty cutlery or crockery out. Wash items and put them away, or place them in the dishwasher.
- Do not help yourself to food in the homestay's kitchen without prior consent.

7.2 Bathroom

- Use of the bathroom is permitted as and when required.
- Be respectful of the homestay's bathroom and do not leave wet towels or dirty laundry lying around.
- Be mindful of the homestay family's bathroom habits and schedule.
- Do not help yourself to the homestay family's toiletries without prior consent.

7.3 Wi-Fi and access to the home computer

- Use the internet and IT responsibly and in accordance with Part 14 of the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy 8.1.
- Do not use the family's Wi-Fi to download large amounts of data or for streaming, unless this has been agreed with the homestay.
- Students are not permitted to use the internet for any illegal activity. This includes accessing sites intended for adults, such as pornographic or gambling sites. Students must not search for or browse sites containing offensive, obscene, violent, dangerous, inflammatory, racist or extremist material. Downloading unlicensed material such as music, video, television programmes or games is illegal and is not permitted.
- Ask permission first if you wish to use the homestay family's home computer.
- Any student found to have used the homestay's internet for illegal activity must be reported to the DSL or Deputy DSL, and disciplinary sanctions may follow.

7.4 Artificial intelligence tools

This paragraph is new in version 0.4. AI chatbots and companion applications can feel like a friendship, particularly if you are homesick or far from home, but they are not a person and they cannot keep you safe. Do not rely on an AI tool for advice about your health, your safety or your feelings. Talk to your homestay, your student coordinator, your school or your parents instead. If an AI tool ever says anything to you that encourages you to hurt yourself or someone else, tell an adult straight away. Do not use AI tools to create, alter or share images of other people.

8 Mobile phones

- 8.1** This paragraph is new in version 0.4. From 1 September 2026 the Department for Education guidance Mobile Phones in Schools is statutory, and schools are expected to be phone-free environments by default, including during lessons, breaktimes and lunchtimes.
- 8.2** Your school's rules on mobile phones may therefore be stricter than in previous years, and stricter than the arrangements in your homestay. You must follow your school's rules. Your student coordinator will tell you what your school's policy is. If you are not sure, ask before you take your phone into school.
- 8.3** In the homestay, be considerate about when and where you use your phone. It is impolite to use it at the dinner table. Your phone should have enough battery and be switched on at all times when you are out, so that your homestay and BOSSS UK can reach you.
- 8.4** A homestay must never confiscate or search a student's phone. Where there is a safeguarding reason to secure a device, the homestay contacts the DSL and follows their instruction.

9 Alcohol, drugs, smoking and vaping

9.1 Alcohol

- Students are not permitted to purchase or consume alcohol under the age of 18.
- Any student found to have purchased alcohol, or seen drinking alcohol, under the age of 18 must be reported to the DSL or Deputy DSL, and disciplinary sanctions may follow.

9.2 Drugs and illegal substances

- Students are not permitted to take, handle, purchase or distribute illegal substances.
- Any student found to have taken, handled or distributed any form of illegal substance must be reported to the DSL or Deputy DSL, and disciplinary sanctions may follow.
- Staff and homestays should be aware that involvement in the supply or transport of drugs may be a sign of child criminal exploitation, and that the student may be a victim rather than an offender. Report to the DSL, who will consider whether a safeguarding referral is required. See Appendix E of Policy 8.1.

9.3 Smoking and vaping

- Students are not permitted to purchase or consume cigarettes, or to purchase or use vaping products, under the age of 18.
- Any student found to have done so must be reported to the DSL or Deputy DSL, and disciplinary sanctions may follow.

- If the student is over 18, they must not smoke or vape on the homestay's premises or grounds unless a designated area has been agreed, and must dispose of cigarette stubs appropriately in the bins provided.

10 Relationships and sexual activity

- Students are not permitted to have intimate relationships under the age of consent, which is 16.
- The age of consent to any form of sexual activity is 16 for everyone. It is the same regardless of gender or sexual orientation, and regardless of whether the sexual activity is between people of the same or different gender.
- It is an offence for a person aged 18 or over to engage in any sexual activity with a person under the age of 18 where the older person holds a position of trust, for example a teacher, a social worker, a homestay carer or a member of guardianship staff, because such activity is an abuse of that position.
- A child under 13 can never legally consent to any sexual activity.
- Any student found to have engaged in sexual activity, or in an inappropriate intimate relationship, under the age of 16 must be reported to the DSL or Deputy DSL. This is a safeguarding matter under Part 4 of Policy 8.1, and disciplinary sanctions may also follow.

11 Appearance

11.1 Tattoos and piercings

- Students under the age of 18 are not permitted to receive a tattoo.
- Students over the age of 18 must abide by the rules set by the school they attend in respect of tattoos.
- Students of all ages must abide by the rules set by the school they attend in respect of piercings.

11.2 Hair dye

- Students are not permitted to use hair dye or similar products, including hair lightening products, which could cause damage to the homestay's residence.
- Students must abide by the rules set by the school they attend in respect of hair colour and style.

12 Staying away from the homestay

- 12.1** It is recommended that students under the age of 16 do not stay away from the homestay unless it is with family or relatives.
- 12.2** All students wishing to stay away from the homestay, including to stay with family or relatives, must obtain consent from BOSSS UK by completing the Parental Consent form.
- 12.3** The Parental Consent form must confirm:
- the date of leaving and the date of returning to the homestay;
 - the name, address and contact number of the person they are staying with;

- travel arrangements and method of travel;
- the reason for the request; and
- the signature of the parents.

12.4 Where a request is made to stay with an adult not previously known to BOSSS UK, the DSL considers what checks are appropriate before consent is given. Consent is not given on the basis of the student's assurance alone.

Change control

Date	Version	Name	Change control comments
June 2022	0.3	Victoria Barfoot-Saunt	No substantive change at annual review
September 2024	0.4	Victoria Barfoot-Saunt	No substantive change at annual review
12/09/2026	0.5	Victoria Barfoot-Saunt	Deputy DSL and Deputy Prevent Lead updated to Eva (Haiwa) Qui. New paragraph 3 distinguishing behaviour matters from safeguarding concerns under KCSIE 2026. New paragraph 7.4 on AI tools. New paragraph 8 on mobile phones following the statutory Mobile Phones in Schools guidance from 1 September 2026. Vaping added at 9.3. Child criminal exploitation note added at 9.2. Position of trust extended to homestay carers and guardianship staff at paragraph 10. Proportionality and additional needs added at 5.3 and 5.4. Registered office updated

End of policy