

## ALPHA PLUS GUARDIANS LTD Data Protection and Information Sharing Policy

### **How we acquire data**

Student information is given to us by parents/guardians or educational agencies that are instructed by parents/guardians of each student.

Information we hold includes, but is not limited to:

- Full names of parents/guardians & students
- Home Address
- School Address
- Contact Details
- Medical Information
- Passport Information
- Image of student ID (Photo page of passport)

Host Family information is supplied to us by host family themselves during their application.

Information we hold, includes but it not limited to:

- Full names of all household members
- Full names of all regular household guests
- Home Address
- Contact Details
- Medical Information (if a medical request is submitted by social services)
- Enhanced DBS Information
- Proof of ID as required for Enhanced DBS application
- Photos of family members
- Photos of the homestay property

### Sharing your data

- Alpha Plus Guardians Ltd treat all data we hold as confidential and treated with discretion.
- Students and host family data is shared with parent, schools and potential host families only\*, by the publication of a profile. This profile is built procedurally each time a profile link

is published and sent by email from our servers. \*(except in the event of a safeguarding risk or medical emergency where it may be shared with local services such as medical or social care)

Host Family data is sent to prospective students' parents/agents where the student is expected to stay with the host family. Alpha Plus Guardians Ltd does not share any data with any 3rd party, without permission and no data is ever sold.

Lines of communication for sharing data:

- Academic Reports are sent directly to parents or agents.
- Welfare Reports are sent directly to parents or agents.
- Information from schools is sent to parents either directly or by the Guardian

depending on the nature of the information.

### **Storing your data**

- Any physical documents that arrive are held safely and securely in a locked filing cabinet
- Any original documents that need to be returned to their owner are sent on the day of receipt. If
- the post collection has been missed, then they are securely stored until the next working day.
- All scanned documents are stored in our dedicated servers.
- Any other information not stored in the form of a document image e.g. information given during online application, is stored in our database.
- All hardware is owned, built, maintained and managed by Alpha Plus Guardians
- Alpha Plus Guardians Ltd Servers and their drives are all encrypted with 256bit AES encryption.
- The Alpha Plus Guardians Ltd networks are housed behind hardware firewalls connected by VPN encrypted with 256 AES key.

### **Retention period of information**

- For students, our retention period is the length of time a student is under our guardianship plus 7 years from leaving as all records are integrated within our accounts information.
- For host families, all supplied information is stored on our network. Host families manage their information

- If the host family are no longer hosting, their information is removed from public view and only visible to the data protection handler.
- The host family information is also integrated in the same way as students and therefore needs to be held for a minimum of 7 years.
- After 7 years of inactivity, the data held for students and host families is automatically deleted.
- Alpha Plus Guardians servers including the data stored on them, are backed up to offsite storage owned and maintained by Alpha Plus Guardians Ltd.
- The backup storage is held at an undisclosed secure location, on encrypted drives inaccessible to anyone except the Technical Partner in the case of a disaster recovery.

## Privacy Notice

### Your rights

The GDPR includes the following rights for individuals:

- The right to be informed: Alpha Plus Guardians Ltd is committed to fair processing of information, this is through our privacy notice on how your data will be kept and stored.
- The right of access: At any time, anyone may request the data that we store and how it is processed. Information will be shared without delay and within one month. This can be extended if agreed by both parties and the request(s) are complex or numerous.
- The right to rectification: If there are any inaccuracies in the information we are given, we shall let all parties' privy to the information know of the mistake and update them accordingly.
- The right to erasure: Once a contract has ended with Alpha Plus Guardians Ltd, students and host families have the 'right to be forgotten', and all data will be deleted in accordance with the above policy. This means that we would erase all their data from our records, after 7 years of inactivity. Once a student becomes 16, they have the 'right to be forgotten' and can request this themselves.
- The right to restrict processing: If data appears to be inaccurate, it will not be processed until verified. If processing the data becomes unlawful, processing will be restricted but not erased.
- The right to data portability: Alpha Plus Guardians Ltd does not fall under this category and data is not used commercially.
- The right to object: Alpha Plus Guardians Ltd may use data internally for marketing purposes, both text and photos. Everyone has the right to object to their information being used in this way. Simply let us know by emailing: [office@alphaplusguardians.co.uk](mailto:office@alphaplusguardians.co.uk)
- The right not to be subject to automated decision-making including profiling: This does not apply as no decision is made electronically and all data is handled by someone from Alpha Plus Guardians Ltd.

## Charges

There are no charges to store or have access to your data.

## **Infringement**

Alpha Plus Guardians Ltd has a duty to protect your data. If you believe there has been a breach of data protection, we suggest first contact our Data Protection Officer Emma Ryan. If you are unsatisfied with the outcome of our internal investigation, please contact the Information

Commissioner's Office (ICO) +44 303 123 1113

## **Contact details**

Data Protection Officer:

Mrs Emma Ryan

email: [office@alphaplusguardians.co.uk](mailto:office@alphaplusguardians.co.uk)

+44 (0) 7981 705275 24 hours

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Next review date: 30th March 2024