

OPDS Emergency Procedure

Statement

The safety of our students is our main priority. OPDS acknowledges that there may be situations out of their control that require planning for. This plan outlines what OPDS will do in the event of an emergency. (Please note that the scenarios are not exhaustive.)

Emergency Procedure

Dealing with an emergency

It is important that staff who receive an emergency call keep calm and remember to note all of the information provided. You may need to provide reassurance and support to the informant as they may be upset, suffering from shock or may panic.

- Ascertain what has happened, gathering as much information as you can;
- Discuss with the informant what action needs to be taken and by whom;
- Keep a written record of the information and of any actions taken. (A template for recording incidents is included at end of this plan);
- The Guardianship Manager, Linda Tao, should be informed immediately about the situation.

Specific scenarios

Please note that specific scenarios may require a bespoke plan that will include further details on how we will handle the issue. Where this is the case OPDS will circulate the plan to all relevant parties.

Cancelled Flights

When a student's flight is cancelled in the UK OPDS will arrange for suitable care. If necessary, students will be accommodated in an emergency homestay until it is possible to travel. Where a student is waiting at an airport without a member of our staff, students are required to contact OPDS as soon as they are aware that their flights have been cancelled. Parents will be kept fully informed of the situation. OPDS will liaise with the airline and parents to rearrange the flights.

Pandemic/Contagious Outbreak

Pandemics can cause major disruption to travel and schooling. It is important in such events to take advice from the government, UK Health Security Agency and the World Health Organisation. AEGIS provides guidance for members to follow. This is regularly updated as a situation develops. Usually, in a pandemic it is important to restrict movement so as not to spread the disease further. That means boarding school students would usually remain at school. In the event of a pandemic OPDS may not be able to offer homestay accommodation as this could place students, homestay families and the wider community at risk. OPDS will work with parents to find flights to home countries where required. OPDS will work with schools to meet students' needs during a pandemic. This could be by helping to support

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students to learn remotely as directed by the school. OPDS will work with parents and schools to find suitable quarantine accommodation for students where required.

OPDS has a specific policy that outlines our procedures for dealing with a pandemic. OPDS Pandemic/Contagious Outbreak Policy can be found on our website.

Serious injury or death of a student

Serious injury or death of a student is distressing for all concerned. OPDS will:

- Liaise with medical staff and police
- Keep parents informed
- Help parents arrange flights
- Handle any media enquiries
- Liaise with schools and any other external agencies (such as LSP) where required
- If required, assist parents with rehabilitation and flights home
- If required, assist parents with funeral arrangements

Terrorist incident

Schools will have their own lockdown procedures to ensure the safety of students in the event of a terror attack. In the event of a terror attack taking place in the UK when a student is staying at a homestay, OPDS will follow the guidance provided by the UK government and the police. Unless instructed otherwise, students will be asked to remain in the homestay and not to go out unaccompanied by their homestay. In such a situation OPDS will assess the risks and act accordingly.

Fire

In the event of a fire at a homestay, after dealing with the emergency by calling the fire brigade, the homestay is expected to inform OPDS. Students will be moved to a different homestay until the accommodation is refurbished. OPDS will visit the homestay to check the suitability of accommodation before any students return.

School closures

There are many reasons why a school may close. These could be temporary, such as due to weather or a staff shortage, or permanent, for example due to bankruptcy. Unless closure is due to a contagious disease (see pandemic guidance above), OPDS will provide accommodation for students with their homestays.

Requests from schools to remove a student

OPDS has a plan in place for any student who cannot be accommodated by the school due to illness, disciplinary action or any other cause. In all cases the student's consultant will request the school complete our student removal form before anyone is moved. Dependant on the reason for removal OPDS will provide suitable care and accommodation. If necessary OPDS will accompany students whilst in hospital.

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Emergency Homestay Accommodation

Please note that emergency homestay placements may not necessarily be with the students' usual homestay, but will be with one of our vetted homestays who provide high levels of care. These homestays may be a greater distance from the school. Wherever possible we will place students with their usual homestay.

Emergency Contact Details - Guardian Organisation staff

Organisation	Contact details	Email
OPDS DSL	Sunny Field 07936 899333	sunny@opds.co.uk
OPDS DDSL	Lynda Tao 07308 408545	lynda.tao@opds.co.uk
OPDS 24hr Emergency	Staffed by rota 07842 303240	

Contact Details- other organisations

Organisation	Contact details
Police	Tel: 999 (24 hour) Tel: 101 (24 hour, non-emergency number)
Fire & Rescue service	Tel: 999 (24 hour)
Ambulance service	Tel: 999 (24 hour)
National Health Service	Tel: 111 (24 hour)
AEGIS	Tel: 01453 821 293
Foreign & Commonwealth Office	Tel: 0207 008 1500 (24 hour, consular assistance)
Environment Agency	Tel: 0345 988 1188 (24 hour Floodline)
Met Office	Tel: 0370 900 0100 (24 hour, weather desk)
Health and Safety Executive	Incident Contact Centre: 0345 300 9923 (Monday to Friday 8.30am until 5pm) Out of hours duty officer (24 hour): 0151 922 9235 HSE: Information about health and safety at work
UK Health Security Agency	UK Health Security Agency - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) Main Switchboard: 020 7654 8000 Email: enquiries@ukhsa.gov.uk
World Health Organisation	World Health Organization (WHO)
Local Safeguarding Partnership	Phone: 0300 470 9100 (Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm) Out of hours phone: 01483 517898 Email: cspa@surreycc.gov.uk

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Incident record form

Staff should complete this form when receiving information about an emergency incident. Please ensure that you obtain and record as much information as possible.

Name of informant:	Date and time of call:
Contact details of informant:	
Date and time of incident:	
Nature of Incident:	
Location of incident:	
Who is involved?	
Ascertain whether anyone has injuries and if so, where have they been taken to?	
Have the emergency services been informed? If so, what instructions have they given?	
Who has been informed: (Tick which apply)	
Owner/Director of Guardianship Organisation	Police
Parents	Ambulance services
Homestays	Fire services
Agents	Local Safeguarding Partnership/ LADO
School	Health and Safety Executive
Students	Media
AEGIS	Other: (Please add)
Action to be taken:	

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Incident record: Specific Contact Details - for completion during an emergency
This table can be used to record any additional contact details required for a specific emergency.

Organisation	Contact details	Comments

Review

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

This emergency plan was last reviewed on: 21st April 2026.....

Signed: 

[this should be signed by the most senior person with responsibility for emergencies in your Organisation]

Date:21/04/2026.....

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