



Supporting International Students

Background

A recent CSFR completed, has identified the potential vulnerabilities our International Students in independent schools may have. These may require additional support planning and intervention from a range of agencies, taking a systemwide approach to meeting the child or young person's individual needs. It must be acknowledged, children and young people moving into the country, may have additional vulnerabilities, previous intervention in their country of origin and cultural needs that must be met by those working with them.

Time to reflect...

- What reasonable adjustments do you offer within your practice?
- When caring for an International Student, are you assured you have received all required information from previous teams to support your holistic assessment and care/treatment/education plan?
 - Are you professionally curious in your practice?
 - In your practice, who are you likely to share information with?
- How confident are you to share information in relation to a child or young person who is an international student?
- How confident are you to have a conversation with the family who may reside in another country? How would you arrange this?
 - How could you enhance information sharing in your practice?
- Do your records clearly capture the review of records and decisions around the child/young person's care and needs?
- Are there barriers in your practice to fully support international students? If so, how do you overcome these?
- How do you ensure you have "closed the loop" and obtain feedback when required?

Key Documents & links

[Best Practice Guidance for Supporting Health & Wellbeing of Children & Young People moving into UK from abroad for Education](#)

Department for Education (DfE) (2023) [Improving multi-agency information sharing \(PDF\)](#). [London]: Department for Education

Department for Education (DfE) (2024) [Information Sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services for children, young people, parents and carers](#). [London]: Department for Education

Association for the Education & Guardianship OF International Students <https://aegisuk.net/>

How can we support our International Students?

- Be **culturally sensitive**; this may require reasonable adjustments being made ie: translation services, additional appointment times and offer an open culture that values diversity and inclusion.
- Provide a sense of **belonging**, support **integration** and **inclusivity**
- Upon **GP registration** (within 10 working days), ensure information and appropriate documents have been sought by the education provision/other agencies/providers in terms of needs identified by the parents/carers, child or professionals.
- If additional needs are identified, arrange a **face-to-face** appointment
- **Code** in the child/young person's records accordingly using SNOMED "international student" along with stating additional needs and/or safeguarding concerns.
- **Review documents** received and follow up any outstanding (ensuring they form part of the medical record), document parental responsibility and ensure any required referral to specialist care is completed
- **Medication prescribing and dispensing.** Any young person moving into the UK requiring medication previously prescribed out of country, must be reviewed and prescribed by the registered GP. The GP and Pharmacist should follow local protocol or formulary and seek review from specialist services ie: CAMHS, Community Paediatrician, Secondary Care and GP if required.
- If **safeguarding concerns** are suspected or identified, a referral should be made to the local MASH team and concerns documented in records. Always consider **Early Help** if additional support is required.
- Parents must appoint an **Education Guardian** for the child/young person who will act as a local point of contact and support for the child
- Where concerns exist regarding the health and wellbeing of the child/young person, if they **move within the UK** for temporary or longer-term residence; children's social care, the GP practice and school should work together ensure an **appropriate handover** to the local teams responsible, including the appropriate staff at the child/young person's residence.