

Caring for International Students under 18

INTRODUCTION

Fostering international Students -even if for a short stay- is a delightful experience and can provide good benefits to the host-Family as well as to the Visitors.

However, it is also a commitment that requires to become aware of the condition of young people coming to the UK: they have to adapt quite quickly to a new environment, language, people, lifestyle.

Many international students, particularly new arrivals, can be considered ‘vulnerable’, even when over 18.

This vulnerability can result from:

- *entering an unfamiliar culture*
- *living far from family and friends*
- *having much greater freedom than at home*
- *studying in a second language”*

[source: “International students under 18: Guidance and good practice, released by UKCISA]

The following guidelines are intended to help our host-families provide the best care of our visiting students to achieve the most enjoyable experience for everyone involved.

Guidelines for Host-Families

1. WELCOME - Upon arrival our Hosts welcome their Student(s) at the arrival point and make them feel at home.

2. ACCOMMODATION - Our Host-Families offer their Student(s) an adequate room, tidy and clean. The number of students a family can host is related to a) the space can be made available and b) the care can be provided.

3. MEALS - The Hosts provide their students all meals. Should the Student(s) have any food intolerance or dietary requirement, the Host will be informed before hand and asked whether they are happy to deal with this matter.

> It is a good practice to speak with the Student(s) about their food preferences or dietary requirements, about their hobbies, habits, likes and dislikes at the beginning of their stay.

No Alcohol , No Smoke, No illegal Substances

- ☒ Please note that by law no alcohol or smoke or any illegal substances are to be made available to any student under the age of 18 by the host-family.
- ☒ Should there be any concern in this area, please do not hesitate to contact any member of staff as soon as possible.
- ☒ The breach of this point would be a serious issue.

4. TRANSPORTS - The Host-Family provides local transports in accordance with the timetable and other events on schedule, that means pickup/drop-off upon arrival and departure, to/from school (unless at walking distance), to/from local events connected with the programme (social evenings, meeting points for outings).

> Whether the Host-family is at walking distance (up to 20-minute walk) or their Students need to take a bus, the host-family will show their Guest(s) the itinerary more than once until it is clear that the Students have learnt the way and don't get lost.

5. TELEPHONE & WIFI- The Student(s) should be allowed to call home briefly to inform their Families of their safe arrival. After this "no news, good news".

> PLEASE NOTE: Giving your guests a wi-fi connection is a very common request, although not required. Please help your young guest to avoid an overuse of this facility to keep good relations going between Student(s) and Family members.

6. SMALL LAUNDRY - Your Student(s) may ask for some laundry during their stay with you and it is good to do it for them (especially if they are under 15) or you may also tell them how to do it. If there is a laundry schedule in the family, please let them know at the beginning.

7. CONVERSATION - We appreciate that some students do not speak much English and it may be difficult to hold a fluid conversation with them. We ask though that you persevere as much as possible to help them improve their confidence and practise in speaking English in a daily life context and in a friendly environment as the family is.

> The social inclusion of the visiting students with their host family is a relevant target we would like to achieve not only for a Student's language improvement but also for the cultural exchange that may happen when they learn about your life-style, culture and traditions and you may ask about theirs. Anything you can do to support this goal will greatly enhance their experience of both: Students and Host-families.

8. DINNER & AFTER - The Students are expected to have dinner with their Host-family and be therefore at home at dinner time. After dinner they should stay at home and spend the evening with the family.

> If your Students ask to go out without you after school, make sure that: a) you have got one another's contact details; b) you know where they go and with whom; c) they understand at what time they have to be back home. If in doubt, please stay on the safe side and offer an alternative solution.

> Students 16+ can be given permission to stay out longer but no later than 9:30pm. Any diversion from this guideline can be responsibly considered by the Host-family. In doubt please contact our Coordinator (Brechtje) or Admin (Valerio)

☒ **FOR NO REASON A FOSTERED STUDENT UNDER 18 IS TO BE ALLOWED TO GO OUT AFTER 9:30pm WITHOUT A RESPONSIBLE CARER.**

9. SUNDAY - Students are expected to enjoy the full day with their host-family whatever the host-family is planning to do.

> Should the host-family be not able to spend Sunday with their students, they may arrange to allocate students with another host-family or responsible adult for the day. Should the host-family need to move a student to another family for the whole weekend, AEL must be has informed well in advance as this change implies a temporary change of carer and requires the vetting of the suggested temporary carer.

10. CONCERNS - Any concerns or issues should be immediately reported to **Brechtje (Course Coordinator - 0785 826159) or Valerio (Admin - 07595 450213)**. Thank you!

Signature of the Host-family _____ Date _____