

Guidelines for Host Families for Teens and Young People

INTRODUCTION

“Younger international students are in need of additional support on two counts – they are children and they are more vulnerable children. The degree of vulnerability may vary with the age of the child...

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]

Fostering international students -even if for a short stay- might be very delightful and can provide a good income to the host-family. However, it is also a commitment to be aware of the needs of young people coming to the UK: they have to adapt quite quickly to a new environment, language, people, lifestyle. This is the ground of “being vulnerable” more than native speakers might be at the same age.

The following guidelines are intended to provide a support to the fostering families for a good practice and a wellbeing of the visiting students as well as of the host-family itself.

OUR GUIDELINES

WELCOME - Please **welcome** your students warmly at their arrival and make them feel at home. A friendly smile and some kind words will help create a welcoming atmosphere as you start to introduce your guests into your family.

ACCOMMODATION - Students need a **clean and tidy room** with enough space for their things and a **comfortable bed**.

BEDTIME - Suggested bedtime is around **10:30pm**, lights out soon afterwards. There are several circumstances that might slightly change this guideline; may all the host-families be reminded that a child is under their care after school. Fostering parents need therefore to ponder any diversion from this point with **common sense and responsibility**.

FOOD - The host-families provide their students **all the meals**. The students have been told that adapting to the new family and life-style is part of their active learning experience. However, do make sure that they eat **enough** and are **happy** with your hospitality. You may also ask them what they like. Please give them a **BIG** packed lunch.

*Please note that **no alcohol or smoke** is to be provided 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.*

TRANSPORTS - You provide local transports **upon arrival and departure, to and from school** and to attend other **local events connected with the programme** (social evenings, meeting point for outings etc).

If the arrival and departure point or the other locations for events and social evenings are out of a reasonable range, let's say around 10 miles, a fuel compensation may be arranged.

The timetable and programme will be sent to you before their arrival, please read it carefully.

TELEPHONE - The students should be allowed to **call home briefly** to inform their families of their safe arrival. After this the motto "**no news, good news**" is valid. Their families may call them once or twice a week if they really need to. You may make a different arrangement with your students if you want to.

For STUDENTS UNDER 18

If your fostered students ARE UNDER 18 and ask to go out without you after school, make sure that:

- * you know **where** they are going,
- * **who** are they with,
- * **how** they will get back and
- * **when**
- * you have got one other's **contact details**.

If in doubt about giving your permission to go out, please stay on the safe side and offer an alternative solution.

*Should they ask to go out **in the evening**, please be aware that you must be with your fostered guests or you must arrange that they are with a **responsible adult** who will supervise them until they get back home.*

FOR NO REASON A FOSTERED STUDENT UNDER 18 IS TO BE ALLOWED TO GO OUT IN THE EVENING-NIGHT WITHOUT A RESPONSIBLE CARER

WI-FI: Students might ask for a wi-fi connection. It is up to you to give this facility. May I suggest to enable their connection for a **daily limited time only**, preferably NOT in the night.

RELATIONSHIPS - The **inclusion** of the visiting students with the **local community** and with their **host family** is one of the most ambitious targets of our project. Anything you can do to support this goal will greatly enhance their experience.

Students are expecting to **join in with your daily activities** such as shopping, setting the table, mealtimes, dishwashing, playing cards and games after supper, outings etc. You may encourage them by asking something

about their city or hobbies and practicalities: i.e. do you need to wash your clothes?

On **Sunday(s)** they are expected to enjoy **a full day with their host family.**

Some **social events** will be organised for students, teachers and host families to attend. These are important for nurturing the friendly social atmosphere of the course out of which our mutual 'Active Learning' may flourish.

VISITING FRIENDS and AFTER SCHOOL OUTINGS- Students **must ask your permission** before going out. Please confirm arrangements with the other family(ies) and consider what is appropriate for the age of your students. They are expected to have supper with you and stay at home after dinner.

UPON DEPARTURE - Please say goodbye to your student with same warm and kind feeling as you welcomed them on the of arrival. The first and last impression are always very important to keep a good memory of our experiences.

CONCERNS - Any concerns or issues should immediately be shared with myself or one of the teachers.

Also, please do not hesitate to contact me before, during or after the course with any questions, concerns, suggestions or feedback.

Enjoy the challenge!
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