

Host Family Programme

Information for Host Families

You are hosting a child from LFI this academic year. Please take a moment to read the following guidelines which we hope you will find useful.

The Role of the Host Family Coordinator

The purpose of the host family programme is to facilitate contact between parents and families prepared to act as hosts. The conditions upon which a student will reside with a host family are for negotiation between the guardians or parents of the student and the host family. The LFI and its staff accept no responsibility for any claim, demand, loss, damage, liability, costs or expenses whatsoever sustained by reason of, or arising in any way, directly or indirectly, from the placement of a student with a host family. Placements are governed by a contract between the families concerned only. No duration is implied.

Experience shows that most minor difficulties can be resolved by good communication between both families. The host family coordinator is available to facilitate this dialogue.

The Student and the Host Family

The following details should be considered and agreed prior to the arrival of students in their host families.

- 1- The host family should make the student and/or parents aware of any household rules or restrictions that will affect or have an impact on the student prior to his/her arrival, such as meal times, help, etc. The student should be made to feel welcome by the host family and fully included in family life e.g.
 - a. Going to the park or the cinema
 - b. Visiting Dublin Castle, Trinity College or the National Gallery
- 2- The student will be within the care and control of the host family. Host families should provide a warm and safe home environment and one which will encourage the student's linguistic development.
- 3- Host families are expected to take care of medical issues that arise, making medical appointments if needed. The host family coordinator is a support and can be contacted if the host family is struggling to organise suitable care, or if they need advice as to how to proceed. However, the host family coordinator will not be available or able to deal with all situations.
- 4- The host family and student and/or parents should agree in advance which additional facilities may be made available to the student, e.g. use of bike, internet.
- 5- The host family will provide transport for the student to or from the airport on only one occasion during the year e.g. on the arrival of the student. The parents of the student will need to make further alternative transport arrangements for their son or daughter with the host family or another provider after the provision of this once off transport to or from the airport.

- 6- On the student's arrival the host parent should assist the student with the purchase of bus tickets and locating bus routes or bus stops for his/her journey to school. The host family should further assist the student in joining local sports or social clubs, and any and all matters that will contribute to the smooth integration of the student into his/her host family's life.
- 7- A student should not be out socially during the week. A student should be occupied with homework, ideally in a quiet and calm environment, during week nights.
- 8- Host families are expected to inform the coordinator or the school directly (by phone call, text or email) in cases of late arrival or absence of their student in school. They are expected to inform the coordinator in case of misbehaviour, or if they wish to get support on how to deal with issues that may arise.
- 9- Host families provide the students with full board. They should try to vary the food provided in the student's lunch box.
- 10- Host family service communication will be primarily by email. Host families will therefore need to have a regularly accessed email address. Communication requires having the right contact details, therefore the onus is on the host family to ensure that the host family coordinator has their up to date contact details.
- 11- Parents should make the host family aware of their expectations or requirements.
- 12- Host families should not be away from home for one night or more without giving advance notice and securing the agreement of the student's parents. The host family coordinator should be informed of any such agreement with the student's family and be provided with the contact details of the person(s) who will be responsible for the welfare and wellbeing of the student in the host family's absence.
- 13- A student may not under any circumstances have a girlfriend or boyfriend to stay overnight in the home of the host family. We remind you that the age of sexual consent in Ireland is seventeen years of age.
- 14- The weekly rate payable to the host family must be agreed between families and the information sheet relating to the amount and terms and conditions of payment must be signed prior to the student's arrival in the host family.
- 15- We advise that the following rules are particular to students residing with a host family with a view to ensuring, as far as practicable, their welfare and safety in circumstances where they are living away from home.

School Rules

It is prohibited for a student of any age staying with a host family to:

- (i) consume alcohol or**
- (ii) partake of drugs or illegal substances of any nature or**
- (iii) engage in sexual intercourse**

Breach of any rule set out above shall be gross misconduct, the sanctions for which will be, at the discretion of the Principal:

- (i) an oral warning or**
- (ii) a written warning or**
- (iii) suspension for such period as deemed appropriate by the Principal or**
- (iv) expulsion with immediate effect.**

The said rules are applicable to students residing with host families and are in conjunction with the Code of Behaviour of LFI as it applies to all students.

(Read and approved)

Date:

Name (block capitals):

Signature:

Coordinator: *Pierre Cassan*

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Email: *hostfamily@lfi.ie*

Outside normal working hours, this number is for emergency contact only.