



WORCESTER SUMMER School

INFORMATION FOR HOSTING TEENAGE STUDENTS

This is to supplement the Code of Practice

Worcester Summer School
40 Foregate Street
Worcester WR1 1EE
(01905) 619877

info@worcester-summer.com

www.worcester-summer.com

SHARING YOUR HOME WITH A STUDENT

Living with a British family is an essential part of the WSS experience as it gives students the opportunity to practise their English in an informal, friendly atmosphere. If you can treat your student as you would wish your own child to be treated during a foreign stay then you should have a winning formula!

SAFEGUARDING

The welfare of our students is an absolute priority for us so we need to be assured that you and your family will have the same caring attitude. This is why we ask you to sign our Code of Practice and why we require the main host to have a current DBS certificate (a police check). Above and beyond such paperwork, we need you to have genuine concern for the safety and wellbeing of your student(s) whilst they are in your care, to uphold WSS's rules & to maintain close contact with WSS during their stay.

PAYMENT

£175/week for bed, breakfast and evening meal. A packed lunch is required on Saturdays and full board on Sundays.

THE STUDENTS

..... are between 13 and 17 years old and come from anywhere in the world where English is not the native language. They come to us as individuals rather than in a group so will probably arrive knowing no-one. Please bear in mind that this experience may be quite daunting for them and that feeling confident and relaxed in your home will really help them to settle down.

ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

We have asked students to plan their arrivals and departures for Sundays. However we have to be flexible and work around flights

THE COURSE

Lessons take place every weekday morning at RGS Springfield, Britannia Square. Afternoon activities are in a variety of locations every weekday. In addition there will be 2 evening activities and a full day excursion every Saturday. We will give you a detailed programme nearer the time but ask for your help in ensuring your student arrives in good time for lessons and excursions.

GETTING TO/FROM RGS DURING THE DAY

When you are accepted as a host family we will confirm how you can expect your student to get to school. There are 3 possibilities:

- 1) You live within the WSS designated "walking distance" so can expect your student to walk to/from school every day.
- 2) You live a bus-ride away so we will provide your student with a bus pass for getting to/from school every day.
- 3) You live outside the city limits and need to give your student lifts to/from school every day.

GETTING TO/FROM EVENING ACTIVITIES

We ask all homestays, wherever they live, to be as helpful and accommodating as possible to ensure that their students get to the meeting point in time for evening activities. It is essential that all students are met at the end of the evening activities and not left to make their own way home.

CURFEW

The evening activities organised by WSS finish by about 22h00. On other evenings your student may stay at home or want to go out. If they go out it is important that you know where they are going (& advise against unsuitable destinations) and that they understand there is a strict 21h30 curfew. Failure to observe the curfew will mean that WSS will be informed and that any future evening outings will be forbidden.

OUT-OF-BOUNDS

All pubs, clubs and bars are out-of-bounds.

MANNERS

We feel that it is important to give students guidance on acceptable behaviour, bearing in mind that some cultures are very different from our own. Please try to do this tactfully!

LANGUAGE PROBLEMS

Please be tolerant of language problems. Sometimes a student may sound rather rude or abrupt because they haven't mastered the polite forms of English. Don't take offence but do try to correct any glaring misuse of the language.

ENGLISH ONLY!

We do not normally put students with the same mother-tongue in the same homestay unless they book together and request it. In this situation we still expect the students to interact in English in the home and we ask the family members to encourage this.

BEDROOMS & BATHROOMS

It is important that students have total privacy in the bathroom so a lock that works is essential. Most students expect to have a shower or bath every day; it is a good idea to agree on the best time to do this so that the running of your household is not disrupted.

Students are also entitled to privacy in their bedroom (unless they have a room-mate) & other members of the household should respect that privacy. We think it's reasonable that students make their own bed and keep their room tidy but you may need to make that clear to them! However once a week we ask you to clean their room and change their towels and bedding.

LAUNDRY

Please offer to machine wash your student's laundry at least once a week. They can do their own ironing or hand-washing!

FOOD

Many students arrive expecting the worst regarding English food! Fortunately, thanks to our homestays, most of them leave with a very different opinion. Experience has taught us that students appreciate the following points:

- Being asked on day 1 if they have any particular likes or dislikes.
- Being offered a varied breakfast. Maybe offer fruit & yogurt as well as cereals & toast etc.
- Being offered the chance to try "new" food & being allowed to dislike it!
- Being offered tea/biscuits (or similar) when they get in from school (especially if dinner time is a long way off)
- Bread and water on the dinner table.
- Good quality home-cooking NOT microwaved fast food.
- Low-fat alternatives to pudding where possible (eg fruit or yoghurt).
- Leisurely dinner-time with plenty of conversation at a dining table, not on a tray in front of the TV.
- Having "house-rules" made clear eg can they help themselves to a drink or should they ask or should they wait to be asked?

INSURANCE

We strongly recommend that you have suitable household insurance that covers any paying guests that you have to stay as WSS **is not** liable for any breakages or damage caused by the student.

GAS SAFETY CERTIFICATE

All homestays with gas appliances and/or boilers are advised to have a Gas Safety Certificate. See here for information:

<http://www.gassaferegister.co.uk/>

TELEPHONE/INTERNET

We expect all students will want to keep in contact with their families by mobile phone or email. If they don't have their own phone or laptop then you should make it clear whether or not yours is available for them to use. And it's a good idea to give them some time restrictions! They should be allowed to accept incoming calls on your landline.

THE KEY TO SUCCESS

We know from experience that there is one thing above all others which students appreciate and which leads them to sing their host family's praises. It's very simple and it costs nothing - friendly conversation. If you are prepared to talk to and listen to your student, particularly over dinner in the evenings, then you will help them to feel welcome. If you provide material comfort but no friendly chit-chat you will have an unhappy teenager in your home.

OTHER HINTS

Watching selected television programmes is a good learning opportunity, especially if there's a native English speaker on hand to help with explanations. Watching in silence can be a lonely, boring &/or mystifying experience.

If your student spends a lot of time in their room, this could be because they need help overcoming the initial awkwardness of being in a strange house. Do encourage them to integrate but obviously allow them to be alone if they insist.

If you have any special house rules, then it's best to make them clear right at the beginning of the stay.

AND LASTLY

If you have any concerns about your student's welfare please don't hesitate to contact me.

For non-urgent issues you can email me;
sue@worcester-school.com

For urgent issues you can call the WSS landline 24 hours a day: **(01905) 619877**. During the day it is answered by our staff and in the evening it is directed to our home or mobile. Please only call it out of hours if it is an urgent matter.

You can also phone or text me on my mobile:
07989 863276

I hope you enjoy your hosting experience!

Sue Johns

**COURSE DIRECTOR
WORCESTER SUMMER SCHOOL**