

School Rules

Students on the Summer Language School are expected to follow our School Rules while at school and on organised trips and activities. These are the same rules that apply for our English students during term time. Our school Behaviour Policies can be found on our school website <https://www.southdevonsteinerschool.org/school-policies.html>.

- no smoking,
- no alcohol,
- no drugs,
- no iPhones or iPods etc. or other electronic devices are allowed during the school day or on outings
- no mobile phones are allowed to be used in the school grounds (even during break time). If you have a mobile for the journey to school, this should be switched off and will be collected during the hours you are in school.

These rules apply to all students and teachers, and form part of the Student Agreement on the Enrolment Form. Any mobile phones or electronic equipment used during the day will be taken by the teachers or course leader, and returned at the end of the day.

British Licensing & Smoking Laws

In Britain it is forbidden by law to sell alcohol to people under the age of 18. You can enter a pub (bar) if you are between 14-18 (if the bar manager allows this), but not to consume alcohol, only to play pub games and drink non-alcoholic drinks.

It is also illegal for young people under 18 to buy cigarettes or tobacco. Since 2007 it has also been illegal (for anyone) to smoke in a public place (this includes all public transport, cafés, shops etc.). Our school is a totally smoke-free zone, and this includes the grounds. Most of our host families are also non-smokers, so if students smoke, they may be asked to do so outside.

Anyone who appears to be under 25 will be asked for identification if they try to buy either alcohol or cigarettes.

PLEASE NOTE: If a student is involved in drunkenness, illegal drugs, shoplifting or other inappropriate behaviour, the Course Co-ordinator will be informed immediately. Serious misconduct of a student may lead to an immediate return home (in such cases there will be no refund and fares will be charged to the student's own family). Such occurrences have luckily been extremely rare.

Host families

If you apply before the Host Family Requests deadline (26th May 2019), we will try to take into account any requests (to be near a friend for example). After this deadline, applications will only be accepted if there is a suitable space left in a host family, but it will be unlikely that we will be able to accommodate extra requests.

We expect students to fit in with the family as far as is reasonable – but the following guidelines should help students to clarify areas of uncertainty: -

Speaking English:

The host family welcomes the students into their family, and gives them as many opportunities as possible to speak in English, and the students should try their best to speak only English, even with fellow students of the same mother tongue. If a student does invite a friend or brother or sister who speaks their language to the host family's home, they should speak English to each other when other people are present, as it is considered rude to speak a foreign language in front of people who do not understand it. During the camp weekend, we will try to allocate the students to tents/rooms with mainly different mother tongue speakers (depending on the variety of different languages present).

Meals:

The host family provides breakfast, a packed lunch (including a drink) and a cooked supper. The students are expected to share the evening meal with the family. Should a student, as an exception, wish to have a meal at another student's house they must discuss this first with their own host family, who will then contact the other host family if appropriate. During the camp weekend, breakfast, lunch and a cooked supper will be provided by the school.

Phone and Internet usage:

When students arrive, they can expect to make a short phone call to their families, to say they have arrived safely. (If they want to talk for longer, please call them back.) After this it is strongly recommended that families do not contact the student more than once a week (or twice at most). From experience we find that daily contact leads to students becoming homesick, and not engaging fully in the experience of learning English (it is normal to feel frustrated and upset after a few days of speaking a foreign language, but this soon passes if contact with home is not too frequent).

Similarly, although students will usually be able to receive texts or emails in their host family, it is not advisable to text or email them every day. Students should not expect to be able to use the Internet (Instagram, WhatsApp, Facebook or similar networking sites).

Our course is intended to follow Steiner's principles; we try to give the students a real experience of English life, and we would prefer it if they are not 'virtually' somewhere else!

Laundry:

The host family will either wash the students' clothes (at least once a week), or provide washing and drying facilities for the students to do this themselves.

Transport:

The host family provides transport to and from school. This can be by car or by bus, or even by bicycle for those who live close. (If the student catches the bus, the fares to and from school are paid for by the host family - the host families will show the students where to get off the bus and how to get home). Hitch-hiking to and from school is not allowed.

Afternoons & Evenings:

A responsible adult from the host family is expected to be at home when the students return from their activities. Students are invited to share in the family's afternoon and evening activities. If they wish to meet up with fellow students they might be given a lift by the host family (or be collected in the evening – all within reasonable distances), but should not expect to do this every day.

All students are asked to be at home in the evenings by **10:30pm** on weekdays, and by **11:00pm**, at the latest, on Friday and Saturday. It is vital that all students and families keep to this arrangement and have clear arrangements for contacting each other. (Students should carry the home number and mobile number (if applicable) of the host family – host families should have student mobile phone numbers for emergencies.)

Free days and afternoons after school:

The host family is responsible for the students on the free days and afternoons after school. Some students like to spend this time with the family; others like to go out with their new friends. If they are going out without the family, students must talk to their family, before the free day, about where they wish to go and when and how they will return (be aware of English public transport and its limitations!)

Illness:

Should a student be unwell, we ask the host family to inform the course Coordinator, who will be at school each day of the course. If there are any medical problems the host families, being 'in loco parentis', are asked to treat students as they would their own family, i.e. to treat at home for minor illness, and to use the family doctor or the A&E department at the hospital for more serious matters or emergencies. We will, of course, inform the student's own family if a student is ill, or has an accident, but we ask parents to fill in the Parental Consent Form, detailing your preferences for treatment, in case it is not possible to contact you before treatment is needed.

We hope that ongoing communication and trust will make it an enjoyable time for students and host families.

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