



East Coast
Guardians

East Coast Guardians
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HOST FAMILY HANDBOOK

Becoming a host

As a host family you'll play a crucial role in helping our international students feel at home whenever they're not at school.

Here at ECG we aim to ensure the highest standards in keeping our students safe from harm.

If you're ready to provide a safe and supportive atmosphere for a student, then we would love to hear from you!

Short term stays

We like to give our students as much continuity and security as possible, which in turn helps everyone develop positive relationships.

Students may stay with their host over a couple of weekend "exeats" each term. They may also stay an occasional night before or after travelling home depending on their flights. A few students may want to go to their host family at half term too.

Some of our hosts prefer to provide ad hoc emergency homestays, welcoming a student whenever a need arises and these can be anything from 1 night to several nights.

Hosts can't always commit to every date but don't worry - it's our responsibility to match students with another host for those dates.

Designated Safeguarding Lead: **Charlotte Coles**
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: **Phil Coles**

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What about long term students?

Occasionally students prefer to stay with a host family for their time at school instead of the boarding house and can be for a few school terms or longer. Students staying with a host family long term might take more time becoming a part of the family and really embracing the family lifestyle. They are focused on academics and embracing the culture is important but not their main priority.

With long term programs, families who host are responsible for:

- Providing a student with a bed (if a student is placed in a home for multiple years, they may be required to have their own bedroom)
- 3 meals a day (not including lunch on a school day as the student can get lunch at the school)
- A quiet place to study
- Assistance learning tasks such as laundry, cooking, etc.
- Encourage the student to participate in family activities
- Support the student in after school activities and sports
- Transportation

Above all the requirements of host families for any duration, the main thing asked of families is to accept the student into their home and make them feel comfortable. To include students in family activities and help them become familiar with their new home. Hosting is an incredible experience and families get back more than they could ever imagine!

Want to be a host family?

We are always on the lookout for families who can provide a safe, welcoming environment for an international student.

We strive to ensure the highest safeguarding standards, and as such we have a strict recruitment policy for host families.

It starts with you getting in touch to let us know that you would like to host students, we will then send you out an application pack for you to fill in and return. Upon receipt of this one of our team will be in touch to arrange a meeting at your home, this enables us to check the proposed student's bedroom and communal facilities. All of our host families are required to be DBS checked which is something we would talk through with you.



Once you are registered with us, we would match any potential students with you based on any preferences you or the student may have. (Such as dietary requirements or allergies etc)

We look forward to welcoming you into the East Coast Guardian family.

Regards

Charlotte Coles (Director)

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