

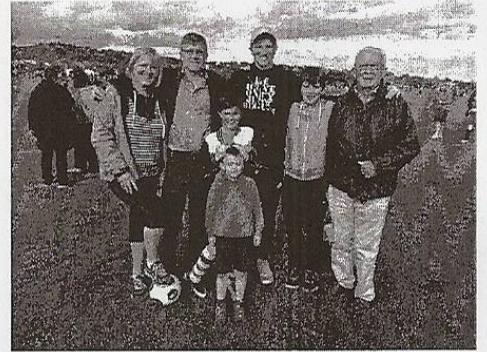
Host Family Guide for Groups



ELI ENGLISH
LANGUAGE
INSTITUTE
DUBLIN

Introduction

We strongly believe that finding the right host family is as crucial as finding the right school. Every family is different and we want to embrace that and celebrate the unique welcome each can provide. Providing a safe & secure home is a basic requirement, but we want much more than this for our students. We want them to immerse themselves in our language and culture, and to engage with it every day. Staying with the right family is critical to feeling truly happy and to creating those memories that will last a lifetime. We are very proud of the welcome our families provide and the relationship we have with them.



Our Host Families

Under Irish law all members of our Host Families aged over 16 must pass Garda vetting prior to us placing a student in their home. Our Accommodation staff visit all host families before we place students to determine the property is up to our high standard and to meet the family in person. All families must meet these requirements in advance of hosting. This is to ensure we have selected the best families for our students, with safety and security taking priority.

What is expected of our Host Families?

The basic requirements of hosts are:

- A clean and well-maintained home
- A safe, secure & friendly family environment
- Their own bedroom with adequate storage space, a proper size bed and adequate heating & lighting
- A suitable place to study, this can be in the bedroom or another room
- Bed Linen (no towels)
- Access to a bathroom with enough hot water for a daily bath or shower
- A balanced and appropriate diet
- A key to the family home
- Always consider the security & welfare of the student both in and outside the home
- To respect the student's different cultural background and to be sensitive to the student's privacy, cultural background, religion, sexual orientation & political beliefs
- Not to leave junior students un-supervised at home at any time.

Before Arrival

We will prepare a profile of the family to send to the student and their parents prior to arrival. We provide students with their host's contact information so they may contact them by email or phone in advance of their arrival. Groups will receive a booking confirmation that lists every student in the group and highlights them on a map so leaders and students alike all know where everyone is located.

On arrival in Ireland

A representative will greet your group at Dublin Airport, from there we will take the group to an assigned point to meet our Host Families. We provide a welcome pack for each student and Group Leader, this includes a copy of your activity and class schedule, a map of Dublin and any previously agreed extras such as, travel cards.

Meeting your Host Family

First impressions are vital for our students and it's important to our host families to ensure the student feels welcome. They understand for some, this is their first experience away from home and they will face many challenges in adapting to a new country, culture and language.

We ask the following of our families in the first 24 hours:

- show your student around the immediate area and where things are
- give your student a key and ensure they know how to secure your property
- Bring the student to the nearest bus stop, DART station or Luas stop. It's best to do this on foot, if possible.
- Explain how to buy a ticket or use the LEAP card – **ensure student has the correct currency and change.**
- On a city map show them where they will get off the bus/train/tram and how they should walk to the school from there.

Eating & meal times

Students should be provided with the same food as the family and where possible, should always eat together. If a student has a special dietary requirement ELI Dublin must be notified in advance. Full-board students have all meals provided including, a substantial breakfast, a healthy packed lunch and a hot dinner every evening, half-board students only receive lunch at weekends. There can be a cultural difference when it comes to meal times, in Ireland, the evening meal is at approx. 6pm. If the student is late due to a school activity, families can keep their meal aside for reheating, we ask that students/leaders communicate with families regarding this.

An example of a typical Irish meal is:

- Breakfast- Cereal with milk, toast with butter/jam, tea or coffee
- Lunch- A sandwich, a piece of fruit and a bottle of water
- Dinner- Traditional dinner in an Irish home could range from Irish stew to lasagne.

Bathroom

Our families provide a clean bath or shower room and there should be sufficient hot water to provide the student with one bath or shower each day. Sufficient time is given to the student to use the facilities, some families prefer students to shower when the family are awake, so, not too early in the morning or too late at night. This is mostly when there are young children in the home with earlier bedtimes. Families make exceptions where activities run late and we find with open communication, compromises can be made easily.

Medical issues

If a student needs any medical assistance during his/her stay, ELI Dublin and/or the host family can make an appointment for the local doctor. EU students are covered by E111 insurance or European Health Card. They will need to pay in advance and they should keep their medical receipts. Please state any known medical issues and/or mobility issues in advance of arrival.

Hosting other students

We ask that our host families do not host students of the same nationality or mother tongue, a mixture of male and female students (under 18) at the same time, and, that they don't host adult students and junior students at the same time.

Student rules:

- Students are obliged to attend school throughout their programme. After class students are expected to go home. They should be home no later than dinner time.
- After dinner with the family, we expect that students aged 16+ would be back in the family home by 21:00 every weeknight and at 22:00 on Friday & Saturday.
- Obey instruction from ELI Dublin staff members, group leaders and host family rules.
- Do not consume any alcoholic beverage or entering a pub unsupervised.
- Do not take any type of illegal drug or un-prescribed medicine; or being around people who are.
- Do not break curfew, communicate if there is a problem.
- Not to be absent from school without permission.
- Do not break any Irish law.
- Do not leave the school premises without permission.
- Do not travel outside your residential area without the permission of ELI Dublin/Group Leader.
- Any acts which might cause injury to someone or damage to someone's property.
- Do not disturb class or behave inappropriately or unacceptably during class.

Advice for Students:

- If you are late, call your host family to let them know why and that you are safe. Families worry that students may be lost so keep the lines of communication open.
- Always carry your mobile phone, fully charged, in credit, and switched on.
- Always carry your host family contact details with you.
- Never enter public parks without adult supervision, especially not after dark!
- Never take short cuts – always stick to main roads you are familiar with.
- Never take large amounts of cash, or original ID or passport documents around with you.
- Take care of your belongings, ensure expensive items (phones/cameras etc.) are secure in your bag or in a pocket you can close.
- Never leave your bag unattended in public spaces.
- Avoid attracting attention by making noise in public spaces or talking to strangers.
- If you get lost in Dublin city centre, try to locate a Garda or call into the nearest shop for advice/directions. If you can't ask a suitable adult, contact ELI Dublin or your Host Family. Please stay in the same place, close to something you can describe like a shop, street name, or business. Don't panic, we'll be able to find you. Don't speak to strangers unless they are a shop keeper, and do not go anywhere with someone unless ELI Dublin give you permission.