

# Staff and Host Family Code of Conduct

This code of conduct is closely aligned with the Vision, Values and Purpose of South England Exchange.

## **Vision**

Connecting people and places to create life-long learning journeys

## **Values**

1. Clarity
2. Safety
3. Positivity

## **Purpose**

To provide young people from all over the world with positive experiences which promote language and cultural learning, academic and creative learning and personal and social growth

*The Vision, Values, Purpose were adapted in summer 2020 to embrace challenges occurring after the Brexit transition period. JC – 30.05.2020*

All staff and host families are required to:

1. Absorb and practise the contents of the staff / host family handbook, the induction training and the annual brush up training.
2. Care deeply about the safeguarding of the young people in our care.
3. Be continuously aware that student exchange is only possible because families open their homes and schools recognise the enrichment these programmes provide.
4. Remind themselves that all teenagers have to find their place in the world and may make mistakes whilst doing so.
5. Understand that our students have taken on a challenge which requires resilience and courage on their part and compassion and patience from us.
6. Demonstrate integrity and clarity whilst presenting opportunities and setting boundaries.
7. Remember that they are in a position of power and trust which they must not abuse

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8. Use appropriate language when in company of a student
9. Never allow any sexual contact with a student, irrespective of their age
10. Never use corporal punishment or physical restraint against a student
11. Use physical contact only when necessary and only in a manner which is appropriate to the age of the student and the situation
12. Look after students in distress
13. Always respect students' right to privacy
14. Never search a student or their belongings
15. When agreeing to transport a student, do so in a safe way
16. Gifts and rewards may be exchanged but should not be excessive in value or quantity
17. Take photographs and videos of students only with their consent and never publish them on a social media platform or otherwise online unless with express consent
18. Not contact natural parents
19. Not contact partner organisations (except for some staff)
20. Ensure that social contact between SEE staff, host families and school staff does not impact on the relationship to a student and make this clear to a student who is worried
21. Staff: not establish social contact with students but remain professional at all times
22. Staff: have one-to-one meetings with students, host families or school staff when requested
23. Use of electronic devices: Staff may use all forms of electronic devices (laptops, computers, tablet computers, mobile phones etc) but have to ensure they are access protected. Staff must protect data privacy at all times. It is not allowed to download personal data of students or host families. These must be accessed on the secure online platform used by SEE and BIS. Care must be taken when forwarding messages. Any questionable content must be reported via the Unusual Incident form on Zoho.
24. Video calls are acceptable but when video calling a student, staff must ensure no other parties can follow the call on the staff member's end (e.g. by being in the same room).
25. Use of social media for communication: For documentation purposes, it is strongly advised to use email as the preferred means of written communication. Where this is not practicable, other platforms can be used as long as the communication partner has free access to the same. Staff must not broadcast individual messages for students or host families on social media. Private messaging is acceptable where email has been proven not to be efficient. When broadcasting on social media, staff must never identify a student or make them identifiable by giving particulars.
26. Data protection breaches: If personal data has been sent to or received by the wrong person, this constitutes a data protection breach and must be notified to the Data Protection Officer (JC) or the Office Manager (AS).