

## Horizon Partnership Agreement: Conduct

**Context:** Horizon exists to promote international citizenship and good relationships between students, teachers, schools and countries. Everyone has a role to play in fulfilling this aim. This document is concerned primarily with the conduct of students but also offers important guidance to staff.

### General Expectations (Students)

Students must understand that expectations may differ from country to country. The purpose of visiting another school and staying with families is to enable the student to gain fuller understanding of different cultures.

Host families are responsible for the students staying with them; for that reason, students *must* adapt to what the host family asks and its general expectations.

Equally, individual schools offering experiences to students from Horizon schools may choose to clarify their expectations and set rules in accordance local custom and the demands of particular activities.

### Specific Requirements and Advice

*When staying with a host family students are expected to:*

- engage fully with the life of the family and their normal ways of doing things;
- use a shared/common language for communication and avoid conversations that exclude some family members;
- if invited, participate fully in family meals and conversation;
- avoid interrupting family gatherings e.g. by switching off or not using mobile phones at meal times;
- demonstrate willingness to try new or different foods;
- demonstrate respect for the family's values and cultural differences e.g. in responding to expectations of how students of the opposite sex should behave when together;
- keep to all deadlines, for example times to return from social activities.

*When attending lessons or school-run activities students are expected to:*

- act as an ambassador who will impress the host school by demonstrating enthusiasm for learning
- and readiness to engage fully in planned activities;
- be ready to offer the host class or school an opportunity to ask questions about life in their own school and country;
- keep to all deadlines, for example times to return from planned activities.

### General Expectations (Staff)

*Teachers should:*

- continue to exercise active responsibility at all times for the students attending an activity from their own school;
- support other teachers in exercising their responsibility for their students;
- actively seek give the impression of engagement with the student based activity;
- contribute to reports on students' conduct, progress and achievement;
- contribute to the evaluation of projects and festivals with a focus on constructive comment about how these can be further improved or refined.

### **A Note On Alcohol And Smoking**

Accepted customs vary considerably between countries. However, it is *never* acceptable to take drugs or to have consumed too much alcohol.

In some countries, families will as a matter of course offer young people and visitors alcohol to accompany a meal. This is always drunk in reasonable moderation. If a family invites you to participate in this way, it is acceptable for you to agree. However, please be aware that, if you do not normally drink, alcohol is likely to have a stronger affect than is usually the case.

The health risks of smoking are understood everywhere. You must not smoke on school premises or supervised activities. You should also assume that it is unacceptable in the context of a family unless you are told otherwise by your host.

Please note that failure to follow the above rules and guidance may result in students being sent home.