



## **Statement of Hosting Principles and Practice**

### **Living in a host family – the general structure of pastoral care at the Swedish School in London**

The Swedish School in London has a long tradition of accepting and hosting Swedish guest students in host families and believes that the hosting experience greatly contributes to the students' experience of being in London and the British culture. By living in and interacting with a local family they learn about British values, traditions and customs. They also become proficient and fluent in the English language and become more mature, learning to deal with different kinds of challenges. They experience London as a resident rather than as a tourist.

All guest students at the Swedish School in London are hosted in safe, suburban areas in South West London within an easy commute by public transport to and from school.

Students should be treated as a family member and are cared for by their host parents, who become their stand-in parents during their time in London. The ethos of the school's host family scheme is one of inclusion and ample support to both students, parents and host families. Specialist hosting staff are at hand to help as necessary with the daily challenges both students and host families might face.

### **Admissions into the host family scheme**

As part of the student's application to the Swedish School in London, the student can also apply for a placement with a host family through the school providing he/she is 16 years or above at the time of arrival to London.

The school has an extensive application process for placing students in host families which is based on both students' and host families' needs, interests and wishes. All host families go through a thorough process before being accepted into the school's hosting scheme. They are then inspected on an annual basis as well as being evaluated by the students. The host families are also given opportunities to communicate with the hosting staff regarding any concerns throughout the year.

To be included in the host family scheme at the Swedish School in London, we expect all parties to adhere to the contract and our school policies.

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### **Welfare**

Students are provided with breakfast, dinner and a snack each day by their host families. Some families host two students; however, each student is guaranteed their own private room.

Welfare support is provided through specialist hosting staff, the School Counsellor, School Nurse, mentors and management. Hosting at the Swedish School in London is overseen by the Host Family Coordinator supported by School Management.

Revised 11.12.17 by ME & JA