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*Raheen Wood Steiner Secondary School, Active Learning For Adolescents*

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### Boarding Student Guidelines 2017/2018

Thank you for choosing ALFA this year. This document outlines the responsibilities of our host families. It is a work in progress and may be updated from time to time as the need arises. You will be notified of any changes by email.

Your host family is a 'home away from home'. You are on a new venture and many things will be new and even a little strange. Life in Ireland will be different from your home and both you and your host family are unique. You may feel immediately comfortable or it may take a while to settle in and get used to the new routine. Your host family is there to help, so let them know if you have a question or concern. They are there to make you feel 'at home in their home' and welcome you as part of their family as much as possible. You will be expected to assume the usual responsibilities that go hand-in-hand with being part of a family. This may mean taking on jobs that you may not be used to doing in your own home. You will normally be expected to contribute in the same way as others in the family, in an age appropriate way. Every host/family has different expectations but generally they include regular tidying and cleaning, washing dishes, Saturday jobs and other daily or weekly chores which the rest of the family tend to.

Your host family is responsible for the practical arrangements associated with school life and social life, including:

- Providing you with a comfortable bedroom with your own bed. This can be shared with a child in the family of the same sex, if agreed in advance with ALFA and you.
- Healthy meals including breakfast, lunch (packed on school days) and dinner and regular snacks (twice a day).
- Ensuring that you, the student, gets into school each day.
- Supporting you with social activities, driving as necessary, within reason.
- Accommodating you in getting to and from home at *half-terms and term breaks*. This will mean driving you to the airport (Shannon) on a Friday evening or Saturday morning and collecting you on a Sunday. Host families will not normally be expected to drive more than an hour to collect a student, so students may need to take a bus part way if they do not fly in to Shannon Airport. ALFA or the host family should be given information as early as possible.
- Staying informed of ALFA happenings, attending meetings as possible and appropriate. Teachers and admin will keep both your family and your host family informed of relevant information.
- Your host family will provide adequate supervision appropriate to your age and in accordance with Irish legislation.

Your host family is NOT responsible for the following and students should make financial and logistical arrangements with their own families to allow for:

- Personal toiletries (shampoo, creams, etc.)
- Long distance phone calls
- Personal expenditures for private activities such as cinema, treats bought when out
- Pocket money
- Any extra costs paid by the host family other than that which is laid out in guidelines.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any queries at all.

Yours Sincerely,

Martha Sullivan, Administrator