

Under 16s at St Giles Highgate, St Giles Eastbourne and St Giles Cambridge

Our St Giles year-round centres are primarily designed for students aged 18 and older, however we can welcome students aged 16 and above at all the centres, and 14+ at St Giles Eastbourne and at London Highgate from January 2015, and also at St Giles Cambridge from January 2019.

Please see below some important information for students under the age of 16:

Travel

- Host families will help students get to school on their first day. The school will ensure students know how to return to their homestay and there is an induction to the city on the students' first day. Most students in Eastbourne walk to and from the school, and most students at London Highgate take public transport. Students in Cambridge usually take public transport or cycle to school. Please be careful when travelling home - do not go to the seafront or parks when it is dark or to places where there are no other people, and if you are returning home from a school social activity in the evening, it is best to take a taxi home. Our school staff can telephone for a taxi for you. **Do not** walk home alone at night.
- All students under the age of 16 entering the UK **MUST** have a return airport taxi transfer, unless they are travelling with a named relative. All students under 16 must bring a completed parental travel consent form with them. This is available on our website or from the school office upon request when booking.
- Many airlines require children under the age of 16 to be escorted to the check-in desk at the airport on their return home. Please check if this is a requirement of your airline. We can arrange an assisted check-in – **there is an extra charge for this service**. Please contact the school office for further information.

Homestay

- All students under 16 years will be accommodated in homestay where the main carer will have had an enhanced DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service) check and other adult members of the household will have signed a Children's Act declaration.
- Students under 16, who stay for 28 nights or more, will stay with host families under Private Fostering arrangements. For this to happen, we inform the local council of the arrangement, which allows them to do extra checks on the host family and the welfare of the student. All adults in home stays used for Private Fostering will be DBS checked.
- Students must be back at their homestay for dinner every evening – if you are going to be late for dinner please let your host know.

- Students are required to tell their host where they are going and with whom if they are to go out on weekends. Hosts must also be given the student's mobile number.
- The curfew for students under the age of 16 is 21.00pm Sunday – Thursday, and 22.00pm on Friday and Saturday.
- Students will not receive 24 hour supervision and will be unsupervised when travelling to and from their homestay, and during their free time.

The Social Programme

- The school's social programme is not compulsory, nor is it specifically designed for this age group.
- Students booking our Junior Courses have 3 free activities each week, which they are encouraged to attend, and there are other activities which they are also welcome to attend if they wish.
- Whilst certain activities are not suitable for students under 16. The schools do aim to provide a number of evening activities which are suitable for under-16s, as part of their free activities and in addition to those free activities.
- All school social activities are supervised by school staff who can assist the students attending the activity. However it should be understood that students attending evening social events are expected to arrange their own travel home. We strongly advise all students under 16 to return to their homestay with a friend, or preferably by taxi, particularly when it is dark. You can see examples of the social programme on our web site at www.stgiles-international.com/student-services/social-programme/.
- Other than with excursions organised and supervised by school staff. Under-16s should not leave the city in which they are studying without prior, written agreement between their parents and the school.
- In the UK you cannot enter a pub or club, and you cannot buy or drink alcohol if you are under 18 years of age.
- It is illegal for anyone under the age of 16 to smoke in the UK. This also means that under 16's cannot buy tobacco or cigarettes.
- All soft/hard drugs are illegal in the UK. If someone offers you drugs always say NO!

Help

- If students under the age of 16 encounter a problem they can speak with the Designated Safeguarding Person. Alternatively, students can also talk to their teacher, the Director of Studies or the Principal, or a member of staff in the school office.

- If students encounter an emergency and they are not at school they can call the number found on the student cards.