

## CARE OF UNDER 18'S AT THE ADULT SCHOOL

IH Belfast accepts students aged 16-17 on adult courses. Any students under 18 will regularly mix with students aged 18 or over in the classroom and during social activities and excursions.

IH Belfast provides a high level of care for each and every student. Particular attention is always given to younger students, especially those of 16-17 years of age. Year-round, we are essentially an adult school and parents/guardians sending under-18s should be aware that we will expect those students to have a degree of self-responsibility and maturity in order for them to join the adult school. While the level of care, support and surveillance is high, it may not be to the level found on one of our 'Young Learner' programmes.

### ***Enrolling a student aged under 18***

As under 18 year olds are not yet considered adults by UK law, IH Belfast must receive a completed and signed Under-18 Consent Form for all under 18 year olds enrolling on an IH Belfast course.

The Under-18 Consent Form will be sent to you at the time we confirm the booking of the course.

This form is mandatory and must be completed, signed and dated by a parent / guardian and returned to IH Belfast prior to or at the start of the student's course.

### ***Transfer service for students aged under 18***

IH Belfast arranges arrival and departure transfers on request. We strongly recommend that all under 18s book the IH Belfast transfer service.

When booked, an IH Belfast representative will meet the student at the arrival gate of the airport with an IH Belfast sign. The contact details of this person will be sent to you before arrival so you know who to expect.

### ***Accommodation for students aged under 18***

#### **Homestay Accommodation**

We have paid special attention to our homestay accommodation service, so families and homes that we have inspected and selected, guarantee students a comfortable and welcoming stay while they are in Belfast.

All homestay families used by IH Belfast for under 18s have undergone thorough safety and security checks to ensure their suitability. This includes a criminal record check 'Access NI'.

IH Belfast does not place students who are under 18 with homestays where other students hosted by that host are over 18.

### **Independently-arranged Accommodation**

If a student under 18 years old is NOT staying in an IH Belfast arranged accommodation, the contact details of where they are staying must be provided on the consent form.

### ***Social programme and excursions***

Students at IH Belfast are offered a very full and engaging weekly social programme. Some of these events are free and any fees to events and activities are always clearly stated. Please ensure the student has enough funds to cover activities they may wish to join. There is no additional level of care provided to under 18 year olds on the social programme. IH Belfast is not responsible for the actions or safety of students while they are on an activity.

IH Belfast also arranges weekend excursions throughout Northern Ireland with a reputable travel company. Please note that there is no IH Belfast supervision provided on these excursions and IH Belfast is not responsible for the actions or safety of students while on these excursions.

### ***Medical care***

IH Belfast has First Aid qualified staff available on site, Monday to Friday 09:00-17:00.

IH Belfast can also help students arrange visits to a dentist or doctor if required.

IH Belfast can only seek medical treatment for a student under 18, if we have received a signed Under 18 Consent Form.

### ***Spending money***

We recommend that students bring a cash card or a credit card to the UK.

Visa and Mastercard are widely accepted in shops and restaurants in the UK and you can obtain cash with these cards in most banks or at ATMs. Many outlets will require your PIN number and a signature is not sufficient.

### ***Flights***

Some airlines do not allow under-18s to travel without an adult. As airline policies regarding young travellers change frequently, the parent/guardian must check the current guidelines before booking any flights.



It is recommended to book flights in good time to ensure that under-18s will not travel at unacceptable times, for example, very late at night, especially if they are not using IH Belfast transfer services. Additional fees apply for out-of-hours transportation.

### *Issues*

As with all IH Belfast students, upon booking a course with us you will receive a booking confirmation. The booking confirmation has lots of useful information on studying and staying in Belfast. It includes an emergency out-of-hours number in case you would like to speak to an IH Belfast representative outside of business hours. During office hours you are welcome to speak to any member of staff you are comfortable speaking with. We will endeavor to resolve your issue promptly and sensitively.