Programme Rules

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What the rules mean for you:

It is important for the programme participants and their natural parents or guardian to read and thoroughly understand the CTL Ireland rules. A copy of these rules is given to the host family, and they rely on the fact that they can expect that you understand and agree to abide by them. These rules were devised to give everyone the foundation for a successful, safe, and satisfying homestay experience. A student who does not adhere to those rules may be released from the programme and be sent back to his/her home country.

Early termination of the Programme

CTL Ireland reserves the right to send home any student whose health requires this action, or whose conduct is considered improper or offensive to the host family, CTL staff or representatives or school staff. Such conduct includes drug use, unacceptable behaviour, drinking alcohol, violation of law, or failure in school work. In this event the student is returned home either alone or accompanied. Parents or guardians are responsible for all expenses above those covered by the fee. Refunds are not available for participants whose programme is terminated prematurely or for participants who terminate their programme prematurely.

The Laws in Ireland:

DRUGS: The possession, sale, or use of illegal drugs including marijuana/cannabis is considered a serious crime in Ireland. Persons violating drug laws will be tried in court and in most cases jailed.

ALCOHOL AND PUB: Persons under 18 are not allowed to buy alcohol in Ireland. It is an offence to: serve alcohol to a person who is under 18, pretend to be 18 or over to buy alcohol, buy alcohol on behalf of someone who is under 18. Persons aged 15 to 17, who are accompanied by their parent or guardian, can stay on the pub premises after 9:00 (10:00 pm from May to September) only if they are attending a private function where a substantial meal is being served.

TOBACCO: it is a offence to sell to persons under 18 in Ireland (cigarettes, tobacco, vapes, nicotine pouches etc.)

TRUANCY – MISSING SCHOOL: Students of school age must attend classes in the school which they are enrolled.

SHOPLIFTING: Stealing something from a shop is a serious violation of the law in Ireland. Shoplifters are arrested, fined and punished. Students in CTL Ireland's programme who are caught shoplifting are sent home immediately. Stealing from your school, host family or peers is also a punishable offense and subject to prosecution and immediate dismissal.

DRIVING: It is illegal to operate most motor vehicles (e.g. cars, motorbikes, mopeds) without a valid driver's licence and insurance. Participants are prohibited from operating such motorised vehicles during the programme. For safety reasons, the use of e-scooters and ride-one lawn mowers is also not permitted on the programme.

SEATBELTS: Everyone in a car is required to wear seatbelts. Failure to wear seatbelts can cause serious injury or death in the event of an accident.

AGE OF CONSENT FOR SEXUAL ACTS: The legal age for consenting to sexual acts in Ireland is 17 years old. It is a criminal offence for people aged 18 or older to engage or attempt to engage in a sexual act with a child under 17 years of age, even if both parties are willing participants.

MANDATED REPORTING: The Children First Act 2015 places a **legal obligation** on certain people, many of whom are professionals such as CTL staff members, **to report child protection concerns** at or above a defined threshold to Tusla - the Child and Family Agency. These mandated persons must also assist Tusla, on request, in its assessment of child protection concerns about children and young people who have been the subject of a mandated report.

A student on the CTL Ireland programme who is arrested for violation of any law will be sent home immediately. This can also affect your status with immigration officials and have an effect on your ability to visit the country again in the future.

Programme Rules
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CTL RULES – must be signed by student and parent

Students must abide by the laws of Ireland.

Students on the programme are not allowed to purchase or drink alcoholic beverages and going to the pub unaccompanied by a parent or guardian is not allowed on the programme.

Students on the programme are not allowed to smoke, buy or consume tobacco products. This includes tobacco/cigarettes, non-tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, vapes, nicotine pouches.

Students are not permitted to drive any motor vehicle while participating in the CTL Ireland programme

Students may not participate in any sexual contact or sexual activity.

Students may not participate in illegal downloading or file-sharing of music, videos, or any copyrighted material from the internet.

Students are not allowed to visit websites or use applications that are restricted to adults over 18 years old. In some households, internet access may be subject to time restrictions or occasionally unreliable.

Students are not allowed to share pictures or content in relation to their host family on social media without the consent of their host family.

Students should not post any content that they wouldn't want everyone to see, this includes host family members, teachers and other students.

Students are not permitted to participate in skydiving, hang-gliding, bungee-jumping, parachute jumping or any other dangerous activities.

Students must abide by the CTL Ireland Rules in relation to Travel, Overnight Stay and Family Visits (see below)

Students must always be aware of their responsibility as exchange students and make a determined effort to represent their country in a positive manner.

Students must follow school rules and policies, attend school daily, complete all school assignments and attempt to maintain at least a "C" average.

Students must treat others students and community members with fairness, equality, dignity and respect.

Students must show respect for their host families and act as a member of the family by following family rules and voluntarily helping with family chores. Students must respect the judgement of their host parents as they would their natural parents.

Students should not discuss their host family's private affairs with their peers. This includes being responsible for content that is posted on web-based social networking sites.

Students cannot change host families and schools at will.

Students must show respect for all CTL Ireland representatives and follow their instructions.

***Infraction of any of the above rules may result in dismissal from the programme and/or disciplinary action*.**

Programme Rules
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Rules in relation to Travel, Overnight Stay and Family Visits

All travel outside of the student's local area must be agreed upon by participant's host family.

Travels (not organised by school) including **overnight stays outside of the host family home without the supervision from a host parent or from another adult formally vetted by CTL (criminal background check) are not permitted.** It is a legal requirement for CTL to enforce this rule and any student who breaks this rule will be sent home.

Overnight stay in a family (e.g. sleepover at friends' host family) that is not previously formally vetted by CTL is not permitted.

For overnight travels organised by schools: participant must request a Travel Request Form from their Local Coordinator and should fill out the form and share it with their Local Coordinator at least 3 weeks in advance of travel.

Return to home country by the student during the programme is only permitted when CTL is organising a return home for Christmas break on set dates or in exceptional circumstances e.g. for health reasons or for attending funeral of a close family member. Return visits for family events such as birthdays or weddings are not allowed.

Visits from natural parents, family members or friends might only be permitted after Christmas, during the Easter break and when the programme is ending. Early arrangement with all parties (host parents, CTL, sending organisation) is required. Natural family members are not allowed to be hosted by host families.

I have read the above rules (3 pages) and I agree to be bound by them.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ (Mother) _____ (Father)

Student Signature: _____

Understanding the Programme

PROGAM CONCEPT
The exchange student lives with a host family as a family member, while attending a local secondary school for the duration of the visit.

PROGRAM PURPOSE
To learn about host country culture by actively participating in family, school and community life. To help students improve their written and oral knowledge of the host country language. This results in better understanding and tolerance among people throughout the world.

EXPECTATIONS
Adapting to a new family, school, friends, language and culture is **very challenging**, and often difficult, but **always rewarding**, with benefits for the student's lifetime.

IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF HOST COUNTRY, LIFE & CULTURE
The socio-economic standing of families varies greatly, and may be very different from that of the student. Hosts live in various areas and regions and are likely to live in suburbs, small towns, villages, rural or semi-rural locations. Placement in urban or suburban areas is not guaranteed in any way.

Most host parents supervise the activities of their children, some quite firmly. Teenagers usually ask permission to go to places, they go only where they have been permitted to go and must return by the agreed hour, or phone if they will be late for whatever reason.

The rules for all activities away from the family, especially evening activities, will be set by the host parents and must be honoured by the student. Host parents expect their children to share the burden of household tasks. All students are to accept their share of this work as a member of the family. Smoking is becoming more of an unacceptable behaviour in most countries. Purchase of cigarettes by students under 18 is illegal in Ireland. Students may not drink, buy or possess alcohol.

YOU SHOULD ALSO KNOW THAT:

Students normally have one family for the duration of the program. However, conditions and circumstances within the host family may change, requiring a host family change, as determined solely by CTL Ireland.

Students graduation from a secondary school in Ireland is not possible and transcripts are not organised or supplied by CTL Ireland. Allocation of subjects and grades varies from school to school and CTL Ireland has no power in such matters. This is determined solely by the school. Student's year level will be determined by the school also. Subject choices cannot be guaranteed as not all subjects are taught at different schools.

Exchange students provide all their own spending money. We advise around EUR 250 each month to cover personal expenses such as phone calls, leisure, movies, personal hygiene items, letters, school books, photocopies etc...

Student placement is at the discretion of the CTL Ireland team. No guarantees are made as to geographic area, soci-economic level of the host family, size, age, hobbies of family members or type of school.

THE KEY TO A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE
An exchange programme makes available to the student an exciting maturing experience with advantages lasting a lifetime. The greatest benefits are available to those students who treat all others with respect and consideration; are willing to reach out to others for friendship; can adjust to a new family, friends, language and culture; and settle into new school routines among new friends without major disruption. The rewards of the program are great, indeed, for the student who shares with the new family, friends and school.

I, the student, have read these programme details. I understand my part in the student exchange process.

_____
Signature of student + date & "read and approved"

Medical Release

MEDICAL RELEASE

We as Parents of the Undersigned Student, do hereby authorise CTL Ireland, its employees, coordinators, the educational institute where the student is assigned, and the family or families with whom the student may live as agents of the undersigned parents to consent to any X-ray examinations, anaesthetic, medical or surgical diagnosis or treatment or hospital care which is deemed advisable by and is rendered under the general supervision of any licenced medical doctor or surgeon, whether such treatment or diagnosis is rendered at the clinic of said doctor or surgeon or at a hospital. It is understood that this authorisation is not given in advance of any specific diagnosis, treatment or hospital care being required, but is given to provide authority and power on the part of our aforesaid or agents to give specific consent to any and all such diagnoses, treatments or hospital care which the aforementioned doctor or surgeon in the exercise of his best judgement may deem advisable. CTL Ireland agrees to inform and involve the international partner organisation and the student's natural parents as soon as possible in the event of any medical situation requiring such consent or care. This authorisation shall be valid for the entire duration of the programme in which the student is participating. The Student agrees with the above conditions even if 18 years of age or more before/or during the program.

_____

Signature of student + date & "read and approved"

_____

Signature of legal guardian(s) + date & "read and approved"

CTL IRELAND
CENTRE FOR TRAVEL AND LEARNING

Travel Authorisation form

Travel with host parent(s) within Ireland
&
Excursions (one-day trips) with CTL Local Coordinator

Student Name:_____

I hereby authorise my son/daughter to travel with:

- His/her host parent(s) in Ireland. This includes overnight stays with relatives.

- CTL local coordinator for excursions in Ireland (one-day trips only – no overnight accommodation).

Date:_____

Parent's name:_____

Signature:_____