

# Useful information for host families in the pupil exchange programme

**The pupil exchange programme gives pupils the opportunity to spend 5 weeks up to one semester in another European School abroad.**

Staying in a host family is part of the intercultural experience and facilitates the pupil's integration in the foreign country and culture. The exchange or visit in another school is possible for pupils of years S5 in the Secondary cycle.

After receiving the acceptance from the school, where the pupil would like to go, it is necessary to find a host family (part of the same school). The school should have a list of available families.

The pupil that you will be hosting receives pocket money from his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) as well as means contributing to costs incurred during the stay, such as costs linked to local transport or learning materials. The family of the hosted pupil can support the hosting family with a daily allowance.

The transfer to the pupil is organised and secured by the pupil's parent(s)/guardian(s).

Furthermore, he or she will be covered in terms of medical care and personal liability during the stay through insurance provided by the parent(s)/guardian(s). It is suggested to the hosted pupil's family to provide his/her child with a copy of medical insurance, or any kind of health card valid in Europe, in case of need.

The hosting family is responsible for the hosted pupil and will be the reference for the school throughout the period of the stay.

A host family is a very important part of the pupil's learning process. Through daily interaction, the pupil acquires precious cultural experiences as well as proficiency in a foreign language. It is therefore important that the pupil is not treated as a guest but is integrated into everyday family life.

A pupil is a young person who may have little or no prior experience of the culture and attitudes of your country. He or she will consequently need your help in relation to many aspects of daily life. This also means providing clear guidelines for his or her behaviour, what is acceptable and what is not, as a parent or guardian would do.

**Do you have the possibility and wish to host a child from another European school (for a semester or for a shorter duration)?** Please fill the [Host Family Information Form](#) and send it to the coordinator for pupil exchanges at TES, Liis Teras ([liis.teras@est.edu.ee](mailto:liis.teras@est.edu.ee)).