

Sporting trips at BSN rely heavily on the willingness of parents to host visiting students. In 2014/2015 BSN families hosted 166 visiting athletes and 183 of our athletes were hosted by parents of ISST schools. With these figures reflected across all 24 ISST member schools, it is no wonder hosting, as is stated in the ISST handbook is, "The 'backbone' of the ISST organisation".

However, hosting does raise child-protection issues that BSN must consider. The ISST organisation states that member schools should follow their own internal safeguarding procedures and provides recommendations regarding paired hosting.

Andrew Hall, a UK independent safeguarding expert, suggests that in England vetting of persons by schools is recommended when the person performs a 'regulated activity' with a regulated activity clarified as teaching, caring for or supervising children without the person being supervised themselves. Hosting students in a reciprocal agreement between families is not considered a form of 'regulated activity' due to the fact that the host family will have their own children present and the host is not receiving payment for their services. This view is supported by Sir Roger Singleton in '**Drawing the Line**'-A report on the Government's Vetting and Barring Scheme (2009) where it is recommended that reciprocal housing arrangements be regarded as private arrangements that would not require registration.

This report also indicates the risk to students when being hosted is low, however to ensure the safety of our students when on trips, the following recommendations are made. It is also suggested that these are mirrored outside of the PE department and across all areas of the school where students are housed by host families e.g: THIMUN, China exchange, Drama festival etc.

Hosting Recommendations Sport Trips:

- In line with ISST recommendations, BSN students are expected to be housed in pairs when travelling and BSN families will house visiting students in pairs.
- As part of their information pack hosting parents are provided with parental guidelines in line with ISST recommendations.
- BSN students are only housed with families where the families' own children are present during the hosting.
- Potential lists of hosting families are approved by the school child protection officer to ensure all host families are deemed fit and appropriate to host. In addition all potential squad lists are approved for the same reason.
- As part of the trip sign up, a safeguarding sheet is included for students and parents. This information sheet contains the following information:

- An acknowledgment of the benefits of the current hosting system.
 - An explanation of the purpose of this information sheet i.e. Not to create a culture of fear but to explain to students and parents how a culture of ensuring safety is created.
 - A 'what to do if' section. For both students and parents this will include a mobile number to contact in case of an emergency. This number will be connect to a school-purchased basic call and sms phone. It will be stressed to parents that this an emergency use number only and that in the first instance they should only text this number with a brief summary of the situation. The coach/trip leader will then use their professional judgement if a follow up call is needed.
 - It will be explained to students as part of their trip that if they find themselves in a situation whilst being hosted that they feel uncomfortable with, or need help and this cannot wait until they next see their coach, this is the number to contact.
- As a result of the policy above the school purchases a number of text and call only mobile phones. In sport we would need a minimum of 4.

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References:

Hall, A. (2015) Safeguarding in schools. [Online] Available at:

<http://www.safeguardingschools.co.uk/schools-ask-dbs-checks-host-families/>

Singleton, R. (2009) Drawing the line. Vetting and Barring Scheme. [Online] Available at:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130401151715/http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-01122-2009.pdf>